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Markings of the Postal Masters in the Romanian Principalities.

by **Grigore Racoviceanu, str. Tunarilor No. 6, 72121 Bucharest 9, Romania.**

Till 1864, the mail transport in the Romanian Principalities was contracted on route sections to concessionaires who collected the cost of the transport and deposited it at the Dept. of Posts. In exchange they received subsidies proportional to the number of horses put at the State's disposal.

Without getting in organizational details, we can mention that every postal station was administered by a postmaster who besides other attributions, received and dispatched the correspondence. The postal masters ("capitani de posta" in Romanian, "maitres des postes" in French) of the Romanian Principalities did not have their own stamps as in some other countries but they marked the items they handled. Some of them have applied their own markings while they collected the transport fees (FRANCO) or forwarded the correspondence and cash shipments with the obligation to collect the postal fees from the addressees (PORTO).

In 1864 the postal administration was taken over by the State, but the function of the postal masters continued. They became employees of the Dept. of Posts.

Correspondence with markings of the postal masters are very scarce. We present the following types, classified by my own system:

(Cont. on column 3)

QUARTERLY RESEARCH BULLETIN
$5.00/year payable to
ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB
%Miron Abramovici, 209 Berger St., Somerset, N.J. 08873.

Is This Overprint Legitimate?

by **Don Heller**

I illustrate the 1947 Scutit de Taxa Postala, torch and open book, blue (CMPR G.16), unused, with a typographed overprint '1948', in black. The stamp is on white paper and is perforated. I have been unable to find any reference to this overprint, and wonder if it is legitimate. Why would such an overprint be necessary (if legitimate)? If not legitimate, who is responsible for its creation?

D1

D1a

D2

D3

D3a

D3b

D3c

D1. Oval marking, 32/38 mm, the text in Cyrillic letters: PECETE KASII MEZILULUI MOLDAVIEI 1822, and illustrating a horseback driver. It is known on a travel paper owned by Fritz Heimbuchler of Munich, Germany.

D1a. Triangular marking, 25 mm, with cut corners, the text in Cyrillic letters: PECETE KASII MEZILULUI MOLDAVIEI 1825, also illustrating a horseback driver. This marking was published by N.A. Bogdan in the "Monograph of the city of Jassy".

D2. The marking of the concessionaire HRISTOFOR SACHELARIE, of the Bucharest-Braila route; a wreath of laurel leaves, circular 25 mm in diameter, in center with Cyrillic letters: BUCURESCI or BRAILA (Dr. L.N. Cristea collection).

D3. The mark of the concessionaire GH. RASMERITA of the GALBINU relay station (between Bacau and Roman), 25 mm square with cut corners (Fritz Heimbuchler collection). The illustration is a driver on horseback, a monogram "G.R." and the text with Roman letters is POSTA GALBINU 1864.

D3a. Seal (round, 24 mm) with Cyrillic letters: POSTA KAMPU LUNGU, a mail coach, a wreath of leaves and 1856. It was presented in "Revista Telegraf Telefon Posta", 1906, page 104 (Library of the Romanian Academy, P.I.2121).

D3b. Oval, 34/30 mm, the text reads: PRINCIPATILE UNITE, STATIA POSTALE DIN FOKSAN, in the center is a coat of arms (an eagle and a postal horn) and the year 1862. It was found by Kiriac Dragomir (the co-author of the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue 1974) in the State Archives, file No.162-1884, Dept. of Posts.

D3c. Round, 30 mm in diameter, with the text: PRINCIPATELE-UNITE ROMANE, ADMINISTRATIA POSTILERA, SECTIUNILE IX.X.XII, in the center is the coat of arms of the United Principalities and letters A.M. (Alex. Mustea). This marking was reported by Dr.L.N. Cristea, and is seen on a letter dated June 16, 1865.

As a result of Kiriac Dragomir's research, the itinerary of the postal routes concessioned to Alex. Mustea is known as follows:

Section IX: Marasesti-Tecuci-Torcesti-Fundeni-Peneu-Serbesti-Sardari-Galati (known as "The connection route").

Section X: Tecuci-Berheci-Preeschivu-Birlad-Strimtura-Docolina-Craspa-Vaslui-Solesti-Movila-Poiana Cirnului-Poenilor-Iasi-Sculeni (known as "the big route").

Section XII: Iasi-Podul Ilioaiei-Spinoasa-Soci-Latai-Varnita-Botosani-Cocoreni-Bertea-Mihaileni and Cocoreni-Dorohoi (known as "the westward route").

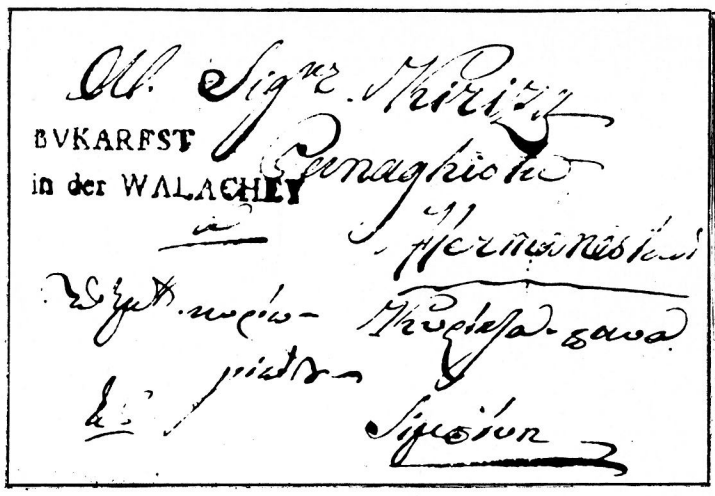
I invite those who have similar items to make them known.

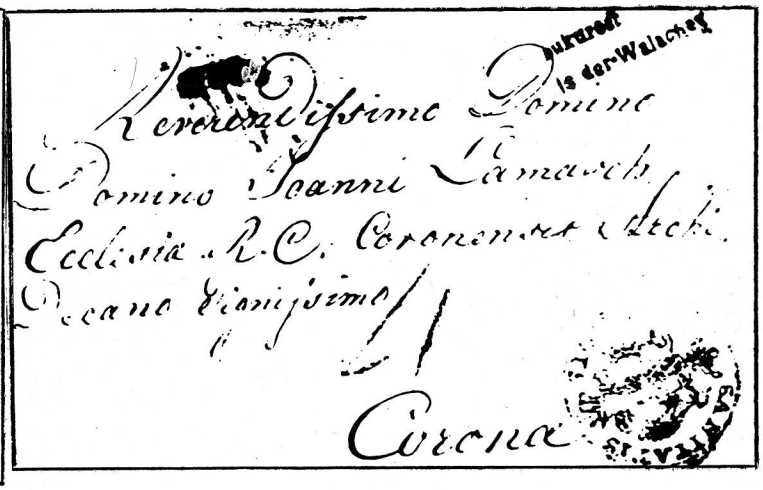
On Foreign Posts in Moldavia and Walachia

by **Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici, str. Stefan Furtuna No. 61/3, 70784 Bucharest 2, Romania.**

This article treats some lesser known aspects of the foreign posts which temporarily existed during the last century in the Romanian principalities of Moldavia and Walachia, posts whose only mission was to maintain postal connections with other countries, but had no role in inland postal services.

I should emphasize that correspondence within the national territories of the two Principalities was always carried only by their own postal services. For postal connections with other countries, foreign post offices began to operate in Moldavia and Walachia at the end of the 18th century. The first ones were the Russian imperial post and the Austrian imperial post. Their offices served, in the beginning, as relays for the routes from Constantinople to Petersburg (today Leningrad) and Vienna. Later on, these offices began to handle private correspondence addressed abroad.





BUKAREST IN DER WALACHEY. The Austrian post offices abroad, that operated in Moldavia and Walachia, have been carefully studied by Zoscsak, Edwin Mueller, von Witzleben and later by Tchilinghirian and Stephen, Ludovic Dengel and others. The general framework of this subject is thus extensively treated in the literature.

The first Austrian post offices were established in the province of Oltenia (Little Walachia, chief town Craiova), during its occupation after the Treaty of Passarowitz (Pozarevac), from 1718 to 1739. As this occupation had, in the intention of the Austrian empire, a character of annexation, the postal service which acted in this period should not be considered as having an extra-territorial status.

In contrast, the other consular post offices created by the Austrians in Moldavia and Walachia, definitely had extra-territorial status. As such, they carried on only postal linkings with the Empire, but no local postal service on the territory of the Romanian Principalities (exception: only the military post offices during the occupation in the Crimean war).

The first postmarks discovered were those of the principal offices: Bucharest the capital of Walachia, and Jassy the capital of Moldavia. Edwin Mueller reports two such postmarks (Tchil. types 1 and 2), the earlier recorded from 1816. We have now discovered two more types of these postmarks, differing in the lettering and in the spelling of the city and country name: BVKARFST / in der WALACHEY, and BUKUREST / in der Walachey. The Austrian post gradually adopted the Romanian spelling of the name of the city.

MIXED FRANKINGS: AUSTRIA/MOLDAVIA. I said earlier that the foreign posts did not carry any mail between Romanian towns (except for the military occupation field post offices). A letter, dated 1859, sent from Vienna to Vaslui in Moldavia will be described. As the Austrian office was in Jassy and had no branch office in Vaslui, the letter was forwarded from Jassy by the Moldavian post. Initially franked in Vienna with a 10 kr. stamp, it was franked again in Jassy with two "40 parale" stamps of the second "Bull's head" issue. This letter is in the Heimbuchler collection.

DEVIATION OF THE CONSTANTINOPLE-VIENNA ROUTE DURING THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION IN WALACHIA.

The couriers of the Austrian post in Constantinope (established in 1784) followed two routes. The most important passed through Serbia via Belgrade, having its mail fumigated in Semlin, at the Austrian border. When, in the early 1820's, uprisings broke out in Serbia, the Austrian post prefered the route over Walachia (Constantinople, Giurgevo on the Danube, Bucharest, Pitesti, passing the border at Rothenthurn (Turnu Rosu), where the mail was carefully fumigated.

In the meantime, a national revolution, lead by Tudor Vladimirescu, broke out in Walachia. As a consequence (as well as because it was no longer possible to secure the necessary Walachian military escort), the Austrian post was obligated to deviate the route once more (for a relatively short time). The mail was sent towards the (at that time) Austrian province of Banat (today Romania), and entered in the Empire at Mehadia. Very little documentation is available on this period of postal history. The most convincing documents are some letters disinfected at Mehadia, mentioned for the first time by Romanian researchers, afterwards, also by Dr. Meyer, in one of the "Addendas" to his monumental work "Disinfected Mail" published in the Postal History Journal. The rare seals of this disinfection station bear the inscription SIGILLUM SANITATIS MEHADIENSIS, and very few copies exist.

MAIL DISINFECTED IN THE RUSSIAN CONSULAR POST OFFICE, BUCHAREST? Chronologically, the first foreign post in the Romanian Principalities was the Russian one, established in 1777, after the peace of Kutchuk Kainarjee, with the Turkish empire. In the beginning, the office acted only as relay on the courier's route from Constantinople to Russia, but from 1781, it handled private mail, addressed to Russia and elsewhere. Starting from 1812, the mail was disinfected at Sculany, on the river Pruth, when crossing the Russian border.

In the 1840's and 1850's plagues often crossed the Danube, into the Principalities. The Romanian "quarantines" on the Danube, started then fumigating even the mail sent from these towns, in various directions, hoping to stop the spreading of plagues.

This method seems to have been adopted by the Russian consular post office in Bucharest too. A letter sent from Bucharest, in 1838, through this office, addressed to the son-in-law of the Tsar, Prince Adam de Wurttemberg, "general lieutenant aide-de-camp de S.M. l'Empereur de toutes les Russies", in Podolia. The letters bear many fumigation punches and brown fumigation traces. After purification the letter was closed and sealed with a wax-seal of the Russian post office in Bucharest and bears also the postmark of this office. The seal proves that the disinfection was carried on in this office. Until now, no mention of this function of the post office in Bucharest has been made.

RUSSIAN "LEVANT" STAMPS, WITH RUSSIAN POSTMARKS "GALATZ". The general opinion of all the authors who have studied the Russian posts abroad, is that no stamps used on letters sent through the Russian offices in the Romanian Principalities existed. During the "Amphilex" (1976) bourse in Amsterdam, a letter bear-

ing one blue 5 kopeks stamp of the Russian levant 1868 issue (Yvert No.10) was offered as unique.

Later, the well known French connoisseur, Mr. Lipschutz of Paris, revealed that another item bearing the same franking and postmark was seen earlier. Both pieces raise the question of the reason why the Russian office in Galatz franked the two letters (addressed to Russia), and if the franking corresponded to any postal rate.

TURKISH POST OFFICES ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE DANUBE. Until 1877, Turkish post offices existed in the province of Dobrudja, between the Danube and the Black Sea, then under Turkish rule. The postmarks of Kustendje (Constantza), Macin, Medgidia and Hirsova are mentioned in the monograph on Turkish postmarks by Orhan Brandt. During the last century, two more Turkish offices were settled on the left bank of the Danube, the first one in Galatz (Moldavia) and the other one in Braila (Walachia). Each of these two is certified by postmarks: one found by Mr. Melon, in Istanbul, the other is in the Heimbuchler collection in Munich, Germany. Both postmarks are extremely scarce, and are each known on only a couple of items.

It seems that a third Turkish office existed in the Danubian harbor of Giurgevo, but no postmark has been yet discovered.

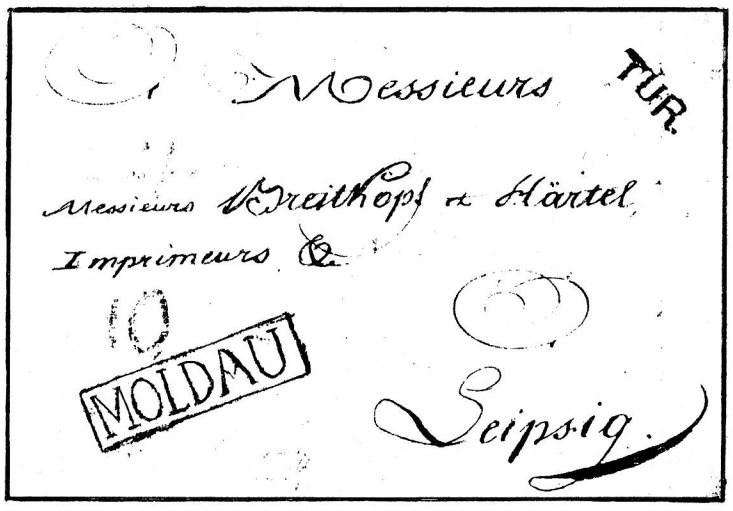
THE LITTLE PUZZLE "MOLDAU". The first Austrian office in Moldavia was established in the capital city of Jassy, in the period 1785-1787 (the exact year is not exactly known). This office at first collected letters from the capital and other towns, to forward them to the Empire. No postal markings bearing the name of a town were supposed to exist, except the disinfection cachet and seal of "Lazzaretto" in Pojana (Boyana) at the Austrian border. But if there were no "town postmarks", we have to explain a cachet bearing the word MOLDAU in a rectangular frame.

This postmark has long been a puzzle, and many have considered it as indicating the foreign origin of the mail. MOLDAU should thus have been employed like other such cachets (AUSTRICHE, RUSSIE and so on). Letters have been found on which both the MOLDAU cachet and another one (TUR or TURQUIE) exist. In such cases, two different cachets would have indicated the origin of the mail (Moldavia was at the time under a Turkish portectorate). As this hypothesis is completely unlikely, we are of the opinion, in Romania, that the MOLDAU cachet was struck by the Austrian office in Jassy on all mail addressed to the Empire. Only later, "Jassy' and other "town postmarks" came into use.

THE POSTMARK "K.K. OST. F.P. RIMNIK". During the Crimean war, both principalities of Moldavia and Walachia were occupied by Austrian armies (1854-1857). During this occupation, the military offices also took over the postal services of the Austrian consular posts. As the occupation was not connected with real warfare, the garrisons were settled in various towns, whose names were inscribed on the postmarks used by the field-post offices. One of these postmarks - K.K. OST. F.P. RIMNIK - raises another puzzle, as there was no Austrian garrison in this town.

Two letters, bearing this postmark, have been found. Both were written and sent from Giurgevo to Bucharest and there was no reason to send the letters via Rimnik.

The answer is that the regiment, originally intended to have Rimnik as garrison, was sent to Giurgevo. Its post office used for a short while the postmark preparing for Remnik.



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More on Numeral Cancels of Jassy

by **Ladislaw Rothman, 29 Metza Street, Ramat Chen, Israel.**

Regarding Silviu Dragomir's article on "Numeral Cancels" (No.1/1978) I would like to present some additional information. Besides the numeral cancel "23" I have found in red also numerals 2, 16, 17 and 24. One postal card shows even a double handling having a red "24" and a black "6" postmark.

The card presented here (H&G #58) was mailed from Jassy on Oct. 22, 1917, by a soldier, to "The International Red Cross" in Geneva, Switzerland, to be forwarded to his family located in Craiova, Oltenia (Southern Romania). Besides a red numeral cancel "23" (of the No. 23 mailman in Jassy), it has a black IASI 22 OCT 917 departure cancel and a light red, double circle, CENSURAT marking, 28.5/14.5 mm, with a number in the middle, which seems to be "16".

There are also two black Russian postal markings (applied upside-down) PETROGRAD 10-11-17 and a black Romanian military censor mark BIROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA, 4 NOV 917, BUCURESTI-SCRISORI.

Despite the fact that the message from this card was sent from one Romanian proince (Moldavia) to another (Oltenia), the card had to go abroad (first to Russia, then to Switzerland), on a long journey, and it had to be franked with an additional 5 bani adhesive stamp to meet the required rate for international postage. The reason was that at that time Southern Romania was occupied by the German army and had no direct mail contact with the Eastern part of the same country.

Contributions to the Study of The First Moldavia Issue,

by **Kiriac Dragomir, Str. Ghiocei No. 26, 72131 Bucharest, Romania.**

As a result of my research in the Romanian archives I can present here new facts of postal history:

1. Regarding the "Atelia Timbrului" of Jassy, where besides the revenue stamps, the first two issues of Moldavia stamps were printed, I would like to make some corrections. It was believed until recently that the Jassy printing shop had only one printing machine and one single worker who "handled the paper with his right hand and the press with his left hand", that the efficiency and the production was low and the press was primarily used to print revenue stamps. The documents in the archives present a totally different picture: a) The printing shop was organized by an engineer from Jassy, named Giuglio Sacchetti. He was entrusted with full power by Prince Grigore Ghica. During the short period of Sept. 3 - Nov. 13, 1855, Sacchetti supervised the execution in Austria and France of the entire inventory necessary to the installation of the printing shop. This shop printed the stamped sheets of paper for preparing documents.

On Jan. 1, 1856, "Atelia Timbrului" started its activity with 22 workers, on the "Strada Mare" (Main Street) of Jassy, with Sacchetti as director.

b) There were 10 printing presses, made by the company of Georg Sigl of Vienna, Austria. Four presses (Nos.6, 7, 8 and 9) installed in room No.1, applied dry (embossed) stamps on sheets of paper. In March 1857, another press was received from Vienna, with "balancer and counter", practical and with high productivity, and was used in the presence of a controller from the Ministry of Finance. The presses Nos.6, 7, 8 and 9 were now used to print "with ink" the revenue stamps.

In the fall of 1860, the Ministry of Finance of Walachia bought from "Atelia Timbrului" of Jassy two of their presses (one for dry stamps, other for inked stamps) for "Atelierul Timbrului" of Bucharest. Later, with these presses the 1862 issue of the "United Principalities" (Scott #11-18) was printed.

c) The cliches were made by J. Bessaignet of Paris, Rue Palais Royal No.128. Eight blank dies were ordered as spares; in 1858 these spares were engraved by Dettmer and used to print both Moldavia issues: the 27, 54, 81, 108, 5, 40 and 80 parale stamps and a 10 parale Porto Gazetei stamp which was never used because of a change in the postal rate for newspapers.

d) On every press, two workers were employed and it is known by their names which ones worked on the dry presses and which ones on the inked presses. One printer handled the press, the other the paper.

e) The paper for the "Timbrul Domnesc" (sheet of paper with a printed or embossed revenue stamp), 460/360 mm in size, was bought from the Leidesdorf company of Vienna, initially 3,000 packs (46 cases).

f) To reduce the size of the paper, the shop got in Dec. 1856 a paper cutting machine.

2. Documents indicate that 24,064 stamps of the first Moldavia issue were printed on four presses (order No.5895 of July 1, 1858). The marginal rows, nos. 1 and 4, were printed on presses "with small distance", and the central rows, nos. 2 and 3, were printed on presses "with large distance". It can be seen on a sheet of the second issue of Moldavia (40 parale) that the marginal rows, nos. 1 and 4 (with a distance of about 11 mm from the sheet margin) are of a different printing compared with the central rows, nos. 2 and 3. This results in two slightly different color types. There are no full sheets of the first Moldavia issue.

The first lot of 5,984 stamps were delivered on July 11, 1858, but they were not put in use, until the delivery of the entire order. The statement that these stamps were issues on July 15, 1858, is incorrect. On July 21, the printing shop delivered the rest of the 18,080 stamps, to a total of 24,064 stamps (6,016 of 27 parale, 10,016 of 54 parale, 2,016 of 81 parale and 6,016 of 108 parale).

These stamps were put on sale on Monday, July 21, 1858, but only in Jassy. The first letters were franked and stamped with a day cancel JASSY MOLDOVA 21/8 and were sent the next day with the morning coach. The mailing register lists seven registered letters (nos. 992-998) and 16 simple letters. A second register, for money, lists 4 registered bags (nos. 911-914). A total of 27 items, deposited on July 21, 1858, were noted as mailed on July 22, 1858. This problem had to be clarified because the catalogues give the wrong date of July 15. The first stamped letters were deposited and cancelled on July 21, 1858, and shipped on July 22, 1858.

Conform a document (no. 1893) of the central post office, the stamps were sent to other cities on Aug. 3, 1858. These stamps could have been sold only the next day. Indeed, on Monday, Aug. 4, 1858, the post offices of some of those cities confirmed the shipment and started to use them.

An exception is the postal station of Tirgu Neamt, which received stamps only on Sept. 1, 1858. Tirgu Neamt did not have a canceller in 1858; the T.NEAMZU MOLDOVA canceller ordered in Aug. 1858 was received only on April 28, 1859. The stamps on the correspondence from Tirgu Neamt were cancelled in the neighbouring Jassy (transit or arrival cancellation).

In conclusion, the first issue of Moldavia was used for the first time on July 21, 1858, in Jassy, on Monday, Aug. 4, 1858, in other 12 post offices and on Monday, Sept. 1, 1858, at the postal station of Tirgu Neamt.

3. In the last decades the usage of the Moldavian stamps was a prefered topic for researchers. The postal archives gave us little information and were completely lacking the data on the situation of Oct. 1858 when the first Moldavia issue was recalled. Unexpectedly, other sources yield some interesting information.

On Jan. 31, 1859, in Jassy, the Minister of Finance Gheorghe Bals, due to some financial irregularities, fired Vasile Grigore, the director of posts and had Niculai Costin the chief cashier under investigation. The event created a great surprise, both employees having prestigious jobs with rich accomplishments.

Depressed, in the night of February 3/4, Costin committed suicide. Members of the investigating commission found him dead, at 6 o'clock in the morning, in a stagecoach, in the post office courtyard. As a first step, the whole inventory of the dead cashier was locked and sealed in a "large iron box". Three weeks later, the investigating commission verifying the cashier's inventory puts its conclusion in a report: "Jurnalul de ancheta din 23 februarie 1859". Very important to us is the inventory of the unused stamps of 27, 54, 81 and 108 parale, returned on Oct. 31, 1858, from the post offices and the mailing and receiving registers for 1858/1859.

	Stamps received				Stamps returned				Stamps sold			
	27p.	54p.	81p.	108p.	27p.	54p.	81p.	108p.	27p.	54p.	81p.	108p.
BAKEU	416	224	160	128	111	-	150	50	305	224	10	78
BERLAD	(640	832	224	320)	258	408	224	268	(328	424	-	52)
BOTUSCHANI	640	160	192	160	565	105	157	99	75	55	35	61
DOROHOJ	224	128	64	64	184	49	59	49	40	79	5	15
FOKSCHANI	224	416	160	224	-	-	21	-	224	416	139	224
FOLTITSCHENI	416	224	160	128	281	59	153	85	135	165	7	43
GALATZ	544	640	160	320	-	-	-	-	544	640	160	320
JASSY	(1248	6048	192	4000)	264	4312	-	2613	(984	1736	192	1387)
MICHALENI	160	128	64	64	142	106	62	53	18	22	2	11
PIATRA	(416	224	160	128)	184	18	119	17	(232	206	41	111)
ROMAN	416	224	160	128	-	32	153	59	416	192	7	69
TEKUTSCH	(224	416	160	160)	-	-	86	-	(224	416	74	160)
T.NEAMZU	(32	128	-	32)	23	113	-	30	(9	15	-	2)
WASLUI	(416	224	160	160)	313	42	123	109	(103	182	37	51)
Total	6016	10016	2016	6016	2325	5244	1307	3432	3691	4772	709	2584
Grand total:	24,064				12,308				11,756			

The discovery of these documents, now kept in the State Archives of Bucharest, helped me clear up the problem.

-For the first time we have found that the stamps were printed in sheets of 32; before, this fact was deducted by calculations. For example in the envelope with the stamps returned from the Birlad post office, the following stamps were found in sheets or detached: "27 parale: 8 sheets a 32 stamps plus 2 detached stamps, total 258 stamps; 54 parale: 12 sheets a 32 stamps plus 24 detached stamps, total 408 stamps; 81 parale: 7 sheets a 32 stamps, total 224 stamps and 108 parale: 8 sheets a 32 stamps plus 12 detached stamps, total 268 stamps".

Some post offices have returned only detached stamps which confirms the hypothesis that they cut them out of sheets when they received them, for easier handling.

Cancel	27p.	54p.	81p.	108p.	Total	Early cancel	Late cancel
BAKEU	13	8	1	2	24	4/8	28/10
BERLAD	2	10	-	6	18	x/8	27/10
BOTUSCHANI	2	-	-	1	3	6/8	8/8
DOROHOJ	2	3	-	-	5	19/8	24/10
FOKSCHANI	16	32	3	10	61	11/8	24/10
FOLTITSCHENI	-	2	-	2	4	11/8	21/10
GALATZ	19	27	10	20	76	2/9	17/10
JASSY	45	79	3	78	205	29/7	31/10
PIATRA	4	6	2	3	15	12/9	28/10
ROMAN	9	7	-	5	21	4/8	28/10
TEKUTSCH	5	8	-	5	18	15/8	24/10
WASLUI	3	1	-	-	4	18/9	22/10
Unknown	16	11	3	7	37		
TOTAL:	136	194	22	139	491		

Fritz Heimbuchler's inventory table:

		MINT					USED					TOTAL
Inventory made by :	Year	27	54	81	108	Total	27	54	81	108	Total	Mint & Used
René Poncelet	1933	4	5	12	4	25	90	130	16	90	326	351
Eduard Cohen	1950	6	10	16	11	43	66	90	11	78	245	288
Liviu N. Cristea	1958	10	12	26	11	59	89	122	18	109	338	395
Valerian Tebeica	1962	7	9	9	6	31	53	48	12	43	156	187
Onig Tulbendjan	1974	11	16	27	16	70	115	165	25	132	437	507
Fr. Heimbüchler	1978	12	21	30	16	79	136	194	22	139	491	570

For example:

	BACAU	PIATRA	TG.NEAMT
27p.	111	184	23
54p.	-	18	113
81p.	150	119	-
108p.	50	17	30.

The inventory does not give proof that the stamps from BACAU were cut round (Dr. L.N. Cristea), or square or in both ways (Fritz Heimbuchler), and does not clear up a controversy.

-The Galati post office did not return any stamps because they used up their entire stock on Oct. 20, 1858.

-The post offices of Bolgrad, Cahul, Husi and Ismail did not return any stamps. It is concluded that these offices did not receive stamps of the first issue of Moldavia. Correspondence franked with these stamps in these cities was not found. Except the Husi post office, the other three offices did not even have their own canceller until Apr. 5, 1859.

-We have found for the first time that the Jassy post office supplied directly, not only the district and border (Mihaileni) postal bureaus but also the secondary station of Tirgu Neamt.

THE TABLE OF THE STAMP CIRCULATION. In the State Archives of Bucharest there are documents showing the stamp distribution to 8 post offices: Bacau, Botosani, Dorohoi, Focsani, Falticeni, Galati, Mihaileni and Roman. For the rest of the offices the possible deliveries were deducted by calculation. Knowing the number of the returned stamps, I made the included table of the circulation of the first Moldavia stamps, in the period of July 21 - Oct. 31, 1858. The data unatested with documents and resulted by calculation is given in parenthesis.

I would like to express gratitude to the researchers who made inventories of the existing Moldavia stamps. These stamps derive from the 11,756 stamps which resulted after the returned stamps were destroyed, therefore this number represents the entire issue.

Fritz Heimbuchler of Munich, Germany, who has today the largest and the most valuable collection of Moldavian stamps, recently drew up a table with the postmarks of the 491 stamps identified by him:

In contrast to other researchers, Fritz Heimbuchler did not find any item with MICHALENI MOLDOVA cancel (Poncelet identified 2 items) and any item with HUSCH MOLDOVA cancel (Tebeica identified 1 item) but he found three more stamps with FOLTITSCHENI MOLDOVA cancel.

REVIEW:
Album Weeds, Part VI
by Rev. R.B. Earee.

156 pages covering Norway through St. Christopher. This is a reprint of the 1906 edition of Earee's classic work and covers what was known by the author about forgeries up to 1905.

The Romanian section has 49 pages and presents in great detail, the originals and the forgeries of the following stamps: Moldavia, Scott #1-10; Moldavia-Walachia, Scott #11-21; Prince Cuza, Scott #22-27; and Prince Carol, Scott #29-52.

The great value of this work lies in the fact that it describes both the genuine stamp of a certain type, and then, individually, every type of forgery known to the author. For example it describes the genuine 27 parale Moldavia and three known forgeries, the genuine 54 parale Moldavia and seven known forgeries, and so on.

It also gives some indication of the cancels used, if any, on both the genuine stamps and on the known forgeries. It is here that the book contains mistakes. For instance, on page 250, it states simplistically that the postmarks used on the genuine 27 parale stamp are usually red while those on the first type of forgery are blue. This is inaccurate and misleading because it is known that in various towns, different colors of ink were used with the cancelling devices at different times.

Reviews by Peter M. Leibowitz

"Phantom Philately: a Descriptive List of Stamps That Are Not What They Seem", by Frederick J. Melville. 204 pages (reprinted, 1950). This is a reprint of a classic work on phantom issues of the world. Page 167 describes three Romanian phantom (bogus) issues: 1) the famous 120 parale gold stamp of the first Moldavia type; 2) an 1857 Moldavia issue with an inscription translated as follows: "Prince Nicholas Konaki Vogoride, Caimacan of the Principality of Moldavia, 1857"; and 3) a type printed 10 bani black on green stamp with a sailing ship in the center and inscribed "MANGALIA".

The 120 parale, it should be noted, is also described by Earee in his book, Album Weeds.

"Philatelic Forgers: Their Lives and Works" by Varro E. Tyler. Published by Robson Lowe, Ltd., London 1976. This is an interesting book that presents short but concise descriptions of the backgrounds and activities of 84 well-known philatelic forgers, a number of whom are known to have engaged in the forgery of Romanian stamps and cancellations.

While it is known that Sperati, the Spiro brothers, Fournier, and De Thuin all produced forged Romanian stamps and cancellations, who knows about Engelhardt Fohl's activities with regards to the first two Moldavia issues and the Danube Steam Navigation Company stamps? Or Sigmund Friedl's forgeries of the 5 bani blue and 5 bani pale rose issues of 1876 and 1879, and the 27 and 81 parale Moldavia issues? Or Captain C.M. Moroiu's forgeries of the 1858, 1859 and 1862 issues of Moldavia and Moldavia-Walachia? Tyler's book indicates that such forgeries by the particular forger were made but does not offer any description of same. Reference to the philatelic literature are, however, included but do not appear to be complete.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

PHILATELIC books, magazines, catalogues can be borrowed on every meeting day of the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB, on the first SATURDAY of the month, from 10 am to 1 pm, at the ROMANIAN LIBRARY, 200 East 38th Street, corner 3rd Avenue, New York City, N.Y.

Istoria Postelor Romane

[History of the Romanian posts] by Constantin N. Minescu.

Published in Bucharest in 1916, 664 pages. This is the most extensive work ever written on the subject of Romanian postal history. The author, who was a high official in the Dept. of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone and had access to the official archives and first-hand knowledge of the postal activities in Romania, created this tremendous monograph on the origin, development and legislation of the Romanian posts.

The book has chapters on the "posts" in antiquity, and especially on the Roman posts in Dacia, the formation of postal systems in France, Austria, Germany and other European countries.

The Romanian posts from 1418 to 1859 are described under seven eras. One section covers postal activities during Prince Cuza's reign. The period of Prince (and later King) Carol I, is described in 26 sections, each covering the administration of a particular director of posts.

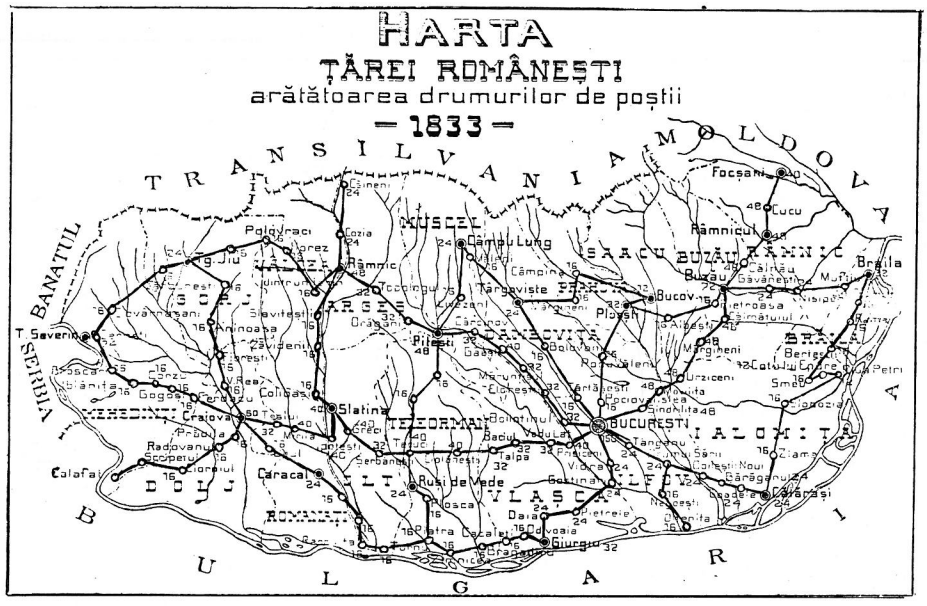
This is a very large and informative work but it is very scarce and expensive.

The King of Hobbies and the Hobbies of Kings,

by Don Heller, 206 West Fairmont Ave., State College, Pa. 16801.

It is well known that King Carol II was an active stamp collector and occasional student of Romanian philately. At the London International Stamp Exhibition in 1950, Carol "made an informal and witty speech" to the Stamp Day Dinner held at the Savoy Hotel, and presented the toast to 'The Exhibition' at the official banquet. (The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1869-1969, RPSL: London, 1969, pp.82-83). His maternal grandfather, the Duke of Edinburgh, was the first Honorary President of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and other relatives in the British royal family (such as King George V, an old friend and first cousin of his mother) may have sparked his interest. We also read of his father Ferdinand's interest about 1900, "When home, he spent every evening closeted in his study with his stamp and botanical collection." (Marie of Romania, Terence Elsberry, Cassel: London, 1972, p. 70).

With Carol's departure from Romania in 1940, his collections were an efficient means of transporting wealth, but postage stamps figure in the affair in a second manner. From the biography "Lupescu" by Alice-Leone Moats, (Henry Holt: New York, 1955) we read: Pp. 136-7: "All of this rebuilding, redecorating and excavating (of the Royal Palace, by Carol) proved expensive. There was a fund kept in the treasury department for the upkeep of the royal residence which the King asked to have turned over to him in its entirety. That melted away very rapidly and several million leis were still required. It was then that an aviation-tax stamp came into existence that had to be affixed to every letter mailed in Romania. The funds this



new tax produced remained ouside the budget and came to hundreds of millions of leis which were supposed to be spent on modernizing the airforce. Somehow they ended in the safe of the King's secretary and contributed more toward defraying the cost of the air conditioning than toward increasing Romania's air power."

P. 186. "...(in 1940) in spite of the funds collected during nine years through the aviation stamp, the airforce had no planes." (D.H.'s note: This is incorrect.)

P. 195."Carol took the remaining aviation tax funds with him when he left the country in 1940."

P. 197. "(Carol and Lupescu) forgot a suitcase in a cupboard in one of their

rooms at the hotel (in Seville, March 1941). The management turned it over to the Romanian legation in Madrid, where it was opened in the presence of Spanish officials whose eyes popped when they saw that it was tightly packed with money - dollar bills, Swiss franks, French franks, German marks. There were also several million Romanian leis still held together by aviation-stamp wrappers."

There is one final episode, in August 1944, that finds a surprising relation to philately. Since there are two slightly different accounts, we present both. From "The Balkans in Our Time" by R.L. Wolff (Harvard Univ. Press: Cambridge, Mass., 1956, p. 241):

"Never on really good terms with Antonescu, he Michael had come, under his mother's guidance, to believe that the situation was desperate, and that his premier would have to go. ... Summoning the Marshal to the palace on August 23, the King informed him that he was dismissed, ordered him disarmed, and had him temporarily locked in the safe built to house the splendid royal stamp-collection, with which King Carol had fled the country."

And from "Ploesti: The Great Ground-Air Battle of 1 August 1943" by James Dugan and Carroll Stewart (Random House: New York, 1963, pp. 278-279): "Russian detachments came sniffing into Bucharest and contacted liberal politicians who had escaped Iron Guard assasination. The Allied sympathizer, Queen Helen, encouraged her son to treat with the liberals. The king secretly appointed a new cabinet under General Sanatescu and summoned Antonescu to the city palace on Place Roi Carol. The dictator left his befuddled G.H.Q. to attend what he expected would be a council of war. But the young king was alone, talked only of his stamp collection, and invited Antonescu into the large vault where he kept his specimens. Michael stepped out, shut the ponderous door, and locked his deposed Prime Minister in the vault."

Antonescu's dismissal led to a long chain of events that established the present Romanian government.

REVIEW:

MICHEL Europa 1979 - Ost. Published in West Germany, 1152 pages, list price $24.00. The Romanian section has 160 pages, is richly illustrated and includes also the controversial imperforated souvenire sheets which were never sold for postal purposes, neither in post offices, nor in the state owned philatelic stores.

The Cluj, Oradea, Eastern Galicia (Pokucia or Kolomea) issues are listed. The Romanian occupation stamps of Debrecen, Timisoara, the French occupation stamps of Arad, and other similar issues are presented in the Hungarian section.

The greatest fault of this catalogue is the poor and misleading illustrations of the early Romanian stamps. For example, No. 6 (40 parale, Moldavia) shows an evident forgery with a five pointed star instead of a six pointed star. Nos. 162, 165, 171 illustrate the forgeries rather than the originals, and so on. Otherwise it is a useful catalogue.

REVIEW:

Six Romanian Stamp Catalogues

1. "Catalogul timbrelor postale romanesti 1938" by C. Namoloiu & G. Nosca. Published in Bucharest, 117 pages. This contains a detailed listing of all the Romanian issues from 1858 to 1938, including the occupation stamp issues such as Cluj, Oradea, Debrecen, Timisoara, Eastern Galicia (Pokucia), and others. It gives color and perforation varieties and describes some errors.

2. "Romania, catalog filatelic, 1946" by F. Konrad. Published in Oradea, Romania, 59 pages. Missing from its listings are the "prohibited" stamps which are usually deleted from post-war Romanian catalogues, such as the "Bessarabia" (Scott #329-335); "Iron Guard" issues (Scott #B145-148); "Carol I Foundation" with overprints (Scott #B154-163); "Prince Duca" (Scott #517-519 and B554-557); "Fortresses and monasteries" (Scott #520-535 and B179-187) and others. It includes the 1919 Cluj and Oradea issues, the 1944-1945 Northern Transylvania issues of Hungarian stamps overprinted by the Romanian local authorities (Odorhei, Oradea I, Salaj and Sighet), new stamp issues (Nassaud, Oradea II, Salaj II), the Romanian stamps with local overprints (Tg. Mures), the Eastern Galcia issue (Austrian stamps overprinted with C.M.T. and new values), etc. It also presents the German, Austrian and Bulgarian occupation stamps used in Romania.

3. "Catalog filatelic oficial al timbrelor R.P.R., 1954". Published in Bucharest, 111 pages. This catalogue provides detailed information on the stamps issued only during the republican era. F.D.C.s, commemorative cancels and envelopes issued after 1948 are also listed.

4. "Catalog filatelic al R.P.R., 1957". Published in Bucharest, 207 pages. Contains the stamps (74 pages), F.D.C.s, commemorative cancels and envelopes issued from 1948 to 1956. Useful for the F.D.C. collector.

5. "Catalogul marcilor postale romanesti, 1959". Published in Bucharest, 232 pages. This catalogue describes in great detail all the stamps issued from 1858 to 1959, except the "prohibited" ones; it includes the Hungarian stamps overprinted by the Romanian authorities (Cluj, Oradea, Timisoara), Banat Bacska, the Northern Transylvania issues, foreign posts used in Romania, local (hotel) posts, etc.

4. "Catalogul marcilor postale romanesti, 1964". Published in Bucharest, 355 pages. It includes the 1858 to 1964 issues and first day and commemorative cancels. Absent from this catalogue are the "prohibited" issues, all the Romanian stamps used abroad, foreign stamps used in Romania, local posts, etc.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The most recent Romanian catalogue was issued in 1974 (and reviewed in our No.1/1977 bulletin). Copies of this 624-page catalogue, together with a recent 96-page supplement, are available through the editor.

Editors of philatelic magazines and club bulletins are invited to help the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES by publishing reviews.

Caveat Emptor, Part II,

by **George Pataki.**

In our No.1/1978 bulletin we have shown three cases when leading dealers were offering forgeries for sale, claiming that they are genuine, even illustsrating them in their catalogues. Without doubt, in some cases, this was done because of their lack of knowledge rather than lack of honesty, nevertheless the buyers should protect themselves by studying the stamps they collect.

A recent case came to our attention, originating from one of the three dealers whose forgery we have previously described. In one of their recent auction catalogues, lot 1282* is described as: "ROMANIA 1859 80pa #10, fresh & Fine, og (photo), $275".

We reproduce here the illustration as given by them together with a picture of a genuine stamp. Note that the forgery has a five pointed star instead of a six pointed star of the genuine stamp. Furthermore, on the forgery the bull's chin is touching the postal horn, meanwhile on the genuine stamp there is quite a gap between them. One would wonder how could such an evident forgery be offered for sale for $275.

We will continue to point out similar cases when we see them.

Austrian Post Offices Abroad

Part six, **REVIEW:**

by **Tchilinghirian and Stephen.**

Published in 1966 by the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain, 79 pages, sold out. Part six of this work describes the Austrian posts and postal markings used in Bosnia, Serbia and the Danubian Principalities (later Romania).

The Romanian section has 56 pages and describes the Austrian military posts, consular post offices, the postal agencies of the D.D.S.G., of the Austrian Lloyd, the "Starostie" agencies and their markings. It illustrates 228 different postmarks and several covers bearing Austrian markings used in Moldavia and Walachia. It gives detailed information for more than 40 towns, their Austrian post offices, dates and periods of their operation, types and colors of their postal markings, etc. For example, for Bucharest it presents 16 different markings, including two forgeries. It is a very useful book and it is a must for the researcher of early Romanian postal history.

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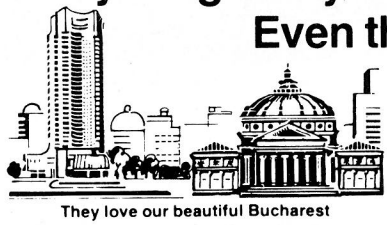

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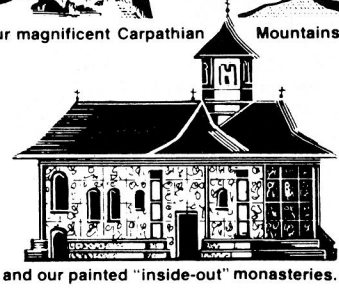

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An Essay for Postal Card No. 33

[H&G No. 25],
by **David Gijiriguian, 154-16 24th Road, Whitestone, N.Y. 11357.**

Very little is known about the essays of the Romanian postal cards. Neglected for almost a century, the fascinating field of collecting Romanian postal stationery was revived by the commemoration in 1973 of the Centenary of the first Romanian postal card. While the classification and evaluation of Romanian postal cards are well known in catalogues, to my best knowledge no studies were published relating to the essays of these postal cards except for the article published in "Filatelia" No.11/1975, by D.C. Biala, titled: "Eseuri necunoscute la primele carti postale romanesti" (translated: Unknown essays of the first Romanian postal cards).

It is very difficult to admit that the variety of Romanian postal cards was adopted without previously making essays, and/or color proofs. Most likely these presumed essays were not preserved due to the lack of interest in collecting postal cards at that time.

We should stress here, before describing our essay, that all Romanian postal cards from 1873 to 1893 have maintained more or less the same general pattern which is: coat of arms on the left, CARTA DE POSTA, or later CARTA POSTALA in the middle, and the printed stamp on the right side of the postal card (Fig. 1). With postal card No. 33 (according to the Romanian 1974 catalogue, page 477) a change was introduced in the general setting of the postal card elements: the coat of arms was placed in the middle of the postal card, CARTA POSTALA under it, and the 5 bani printed stamp on the right side (Fig. 3).

The essay which we present here (Fig. 2) represents a transition between the general pattern previously used (coat of arms - CARTA POSTALA - stamp), and the design of postal card No. 33 (H&G No.25). The essay has the coat of arms placed **between** the words CARTA and POSTALA, with the 5 bani printed stamp placed on the same right corner of the card. The essay measures 130/90 mm (which is approximately the size of the postal card No. 33), on pink flecked cardboard, with the coat of arms, CARTA POSTALA (without accents), and the 5 bani stamp printed in green. The letter type of CARTA POSTALA is the same as Nos. 29 and 32 (according to the 1974 Romanian catalogue).

The essay has the setting of the address lines similar to No. 33 but with a smaller D.

As to the question why this essay was not adopted we could speculate that one of the reasons might have been the fact that the coat of arms was placed between the words CARTA and POSTALA loosing in this way its national significance. The coat of arms, as we believe people who approved the new designs of postal cards must have thought, should be represented on postal cards as a separate entity, nor squeezed between two words.

We believe that the contribution of other collectors could provide additional information.

Fig. 1 postal card No. 32

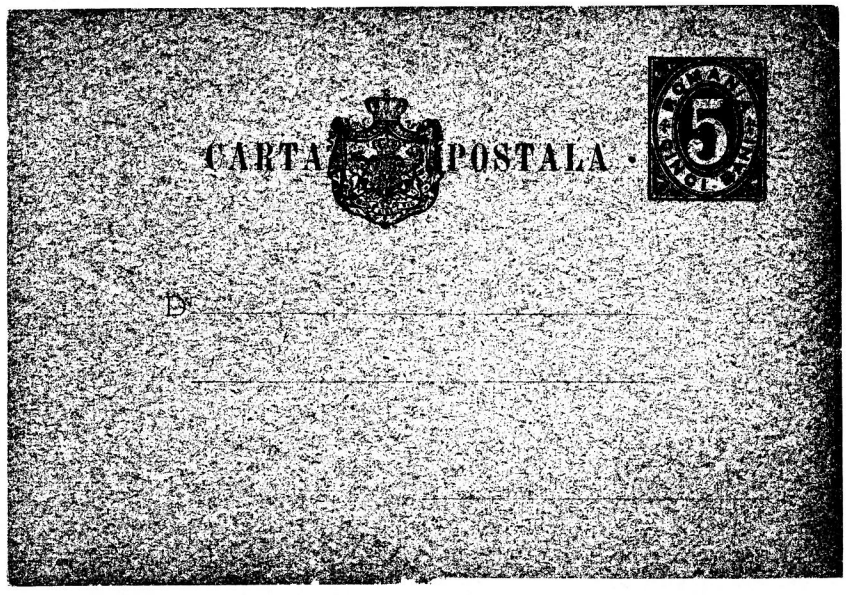

Fig. 2 essay for No. 33

Fig. 3 postal card No. 33

The Forgeries of the Mail Coach Issue

by **Gustav Noska, str. Lamiitei No. 48, 75278 Bucharest, Romania.**

The "Mail Coach" issue of 1903 (Scott #158-165) is a Romanian jubilee issue, prepared in 1901 but released only on May 1, 1903. All these stamps are of a single design, showing a mail coach leaving a relay station in a hurry. The set of 8 values was engraved by M. Theverin and reproduced typographically in the printing shop of the French government, in Paris.

The design illustrates an early stagecoach used to transport mail and one passenger, till about the turn of the century. The format is rectangular in a horizontal position.

The 8 values of this set were printed in the following colors and quantities:

1 ban	- light brown	- 500,000
3 bani	- brown-violet	- 300,000
5 bani	- green-yellow	- 400,000
10 bani	- light rose	- 400,000
15 bani	- black	- 500,000
25 bani	- light blue	- 100,000
40 bani	- light green	- 100,000
50 bani	- orange	- 100,000

The paper is thin, fine, white-rose and the gum is yellowish. The perforation is 14x13½. Some stamps (from sheet margins) have a watermark, portions from "Johannot et Cie Annonay", the name of the paper manufacturing company.

Despite the relative large quantities printed, these stamps were forged more than once. The forgeries were made photographing the originals, retouching and lithographing them. Therefore they can be well distinguished from the originals which were typographed.

One way to recognize the original is by the characteristics of typography: neat and vigurous contours, and small breaks in the lines of the design.

The forgeries present the characteristics of lithography: no neat contours, the roughness of the stone showing, slight smudge of the ink and the design is unrefined. Through retouching some of the details in the design of the forgeries were changed.

There are two types of forgeries known, slightly different from the known original and one from another. Comparing the original with the forgeries (Types I and II) here are some of the differences:

On the original, the outside frame is made of a thin line, a frame imitating a perforation and other two parallel lines which don't touch either the pseudo-perforation, nor each other. On Type I forgery, these two lines are thicker and touch on several points both the wavy line of the simulated perforation and each other. On Type II forgery, one of the two inside lines is thicker, the other one is thinner, and the outside line is broken in some places.

On the original, the inside frame is broken near the roof of the relay station. On both forgeries, this does not happen.

The roof shingles of the relay station are well contoured on the original but on both forgeries, the roof shingles are shown as an entanglement of lines.

On the original, the shadow cast by the roof is made of thick but regular and parallel lines. On Type I forgery, these lines are entangled, some of them extended downwards are smudgy and touching each other in some places. On Type II forgery the shadow is denser and the lines under the gutter are thinner and rarer.

The shadow cast by the arch on the wall, on the original is made of lines and dots running oblique. On Type I forgery, this shadow is made of irregular spots, touching each other. On Type II forgery, this shadow looks almost like the original.

On the original, one end of the ribbon is joined with the driver's hat and the other is detached. On Type I forgery, both ends of the ribbon are tied together and to the driver's hat. On Type II forgery, both ends of the ribbon are detached from the hat.

On the original, the whiffletree of the right leading horse is touching the hoof of the left horse in the rear. The Type I forgery is similar but on the Type II forgery the whiffletree is not touching the hoof.

The original is perforated 14x13½, the forgeries can be 14x13½ but also 11x11, 13½x14½, etc. On one of the Type I forgery the perforation is 14 on the top, 14½ on the bottom, 14 on the left, 14½ on the right.

The original's gum is thick, slightly toned. On the forgeries the gum is smooth, colorless and lightly applied.

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REVIEW:

BIBLIOGRAFIE AEROFILATELICA ROMANA [Romanian Aerophilatelic Bibliography]

by **Mihai Bauer.**

Published in 1978, in Bucharest, 12 pages. The booklet presents a list of articles published in various issues of the Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA and exhibition catalogues. A few aero-philatelic postmarks are also illustrated.

Collectors living in the New York metropolitan area are invited to attend the club's meetings, consisting of trading sessions (at which every kind of philatelic material and not only Romanian can be traded), short lectures and discussions held by the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP, and exhibitions.

Books, catalogues, magazines can be borrowed from the Romanian Philatelic Library by resident members, at every meeting.

The club meets on every first SATURDAY of the month from 10 am to 1 pm, at the Romanian Library, 200 East 38th Street, corner of 3rd Ave., New York City, N.Y.

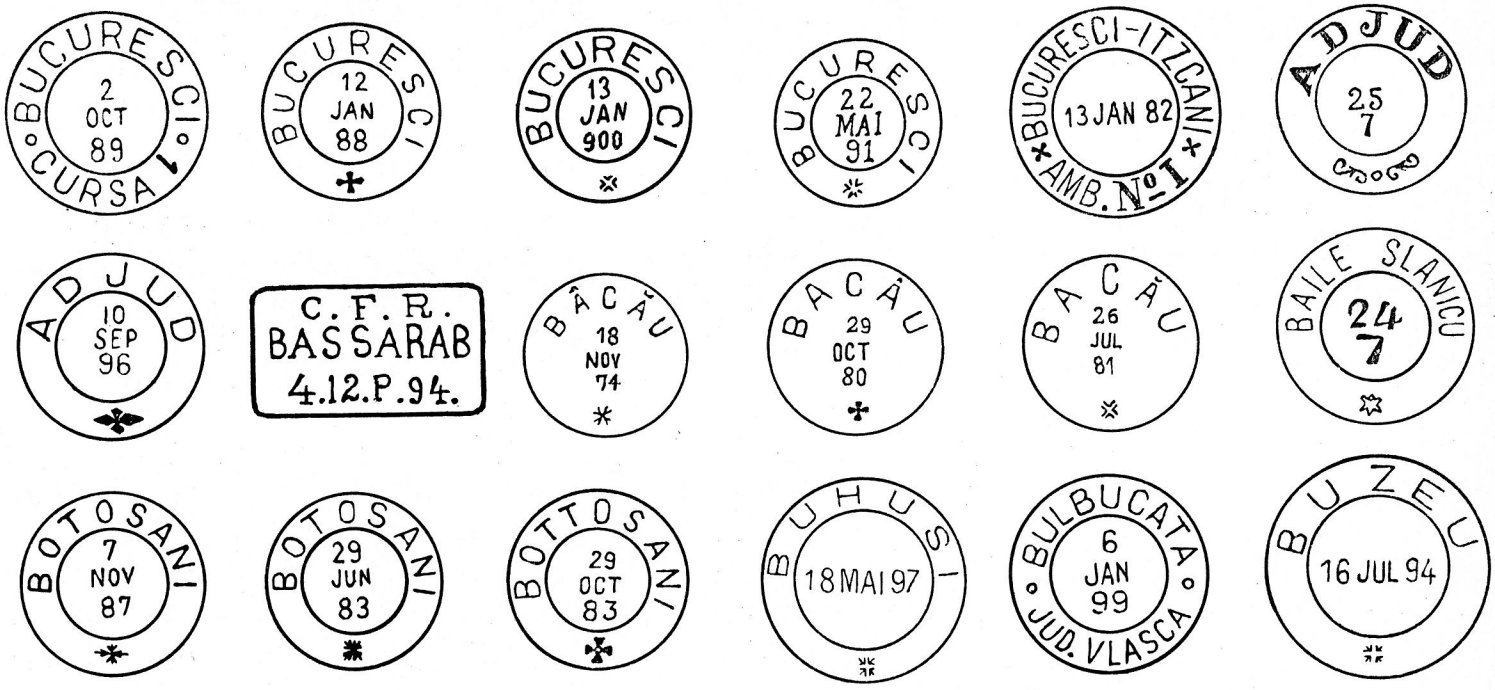
Those who cannot attend the meetings are urged to participate by mail in the activities of the Romanian Philatelic Study Group and publish studies in the bulletin.

Articles on Romanian philately should be sent to the editor: GEORGE PATAKI, 34-24 76th St., Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372.

ADDITIONAL and BACK COPIES of the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES (Nos. 1,2,3 of 1977, 1,2,3 of 1978) can be ordered for $1.00/copy from Miron Abramovici, 209 Berger St., Somerset, N.J. 08873.

INQUIRIES regarding the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB or the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES can be sent to George Pataki, 34-24 76th St., Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372.

19th century Romanian cancelmarks, part III, by George Pataki,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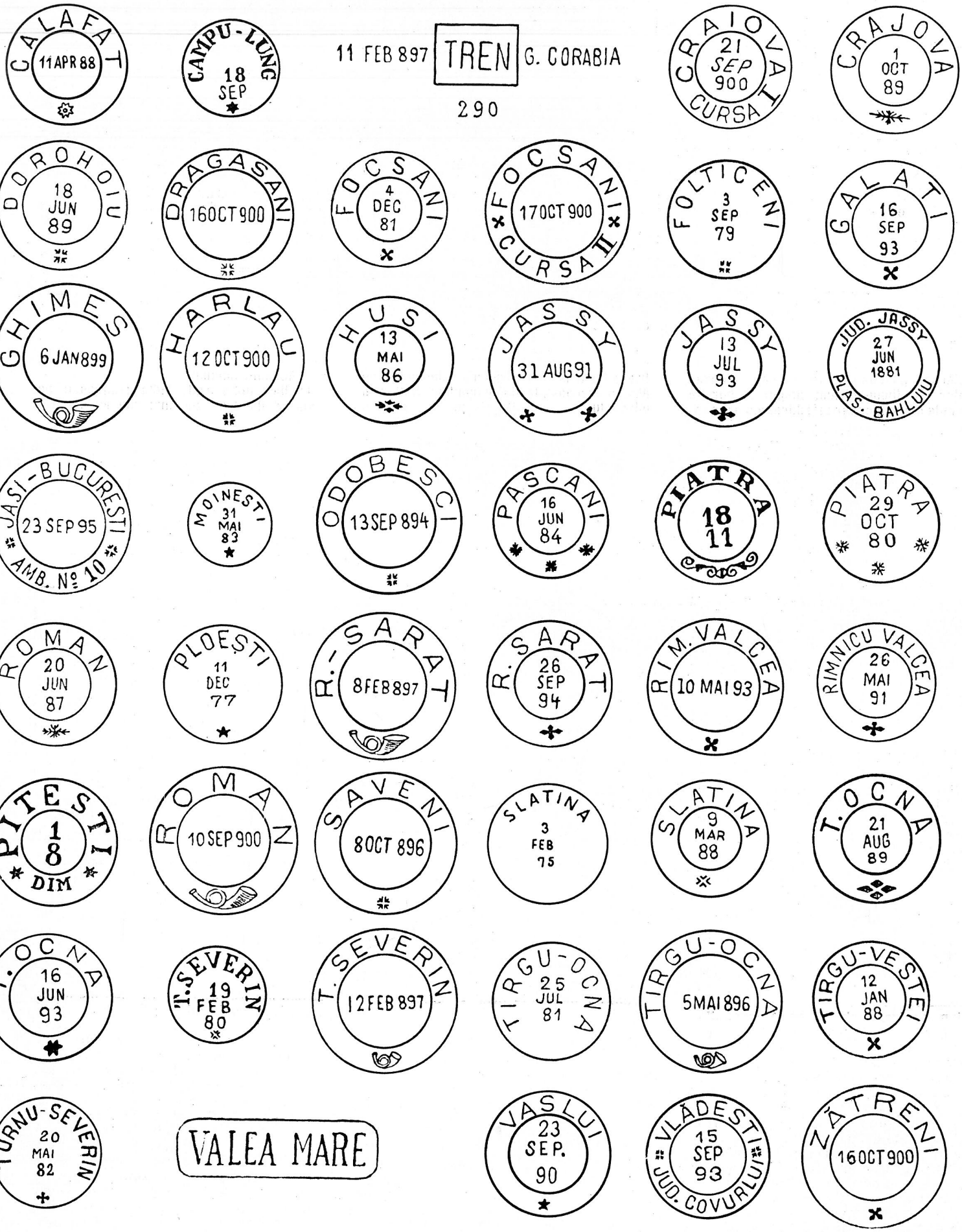
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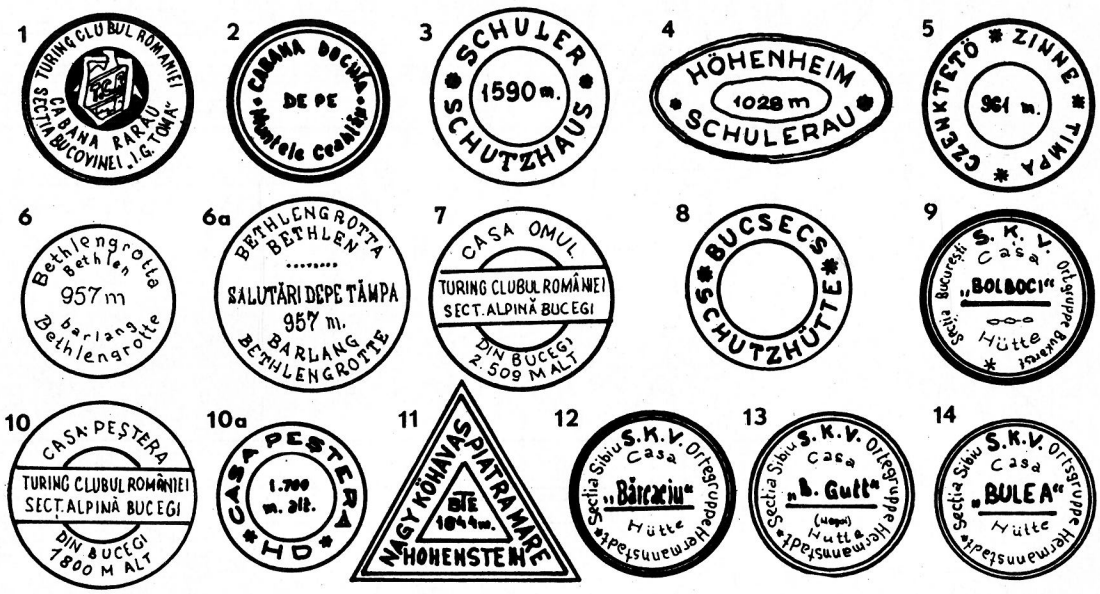

Romanian Tourist Mail Markings

by Silviu Dragomir
Bucharest, Romania

The local tourist posts established on Romanian soil in 1895 (see "The History of The Private Post Offices and Their Stamps On The Present Territory of Romania" by L. Dengel—reviewed in the No. 2/1977 issue of Romanian Philatelic Studies) had proved their advantages and had shown some similarities in the simplicity in servicing local posts with seasonal activities.

Due to the success of the local posts in Paltinis-Hohe Rinne (established in 1895), Magura (1903) and Bistra (1907), first the "Siebenburgischer Karpathen Verein," and later other societies and administrations started to provide certain postal services to the tourists who gathered at mountain resorts, cottages and restaurants. These services, details of which have been concluded by logical deduction rather than from non-existent official data, were provided at certain tourist sites for the use of the visitors and were available through the use of illustrated postcards with special "location markings." Besides the information referring to the specific place (geographical name, altitude, owner, etc.), these markings—by applying them on postal matter—indicated that the items would be transported by the company agent to the nearest official post office and mailed from there after the required official postage had been affixed. Sometimes, handwritten dates were added to these tourist markings.

This mail was usually carried by the regular supply transports to these tourist sites and did not require special trips.

We do not know if any fee was charged for these services or what the amount of these charges were. These fees, possibly approved or otherwise tacitly accepted by the Postal Administration, were included in the slightly higher prices of the postcards. The surcharge for this service was probably small, a fact proven by the large number of illustrated postcards that were bought by tourists at these resorts and saved as souvenirs instead of being mailed.

We have not seen any of these tourist mail markings applied on ordinary covers or postal stationery, presumably because a surcharge in these cases was not justifiable. These local postal services were not official but rather were tolerated by the postal authorities.

Information about the markings of the local tourist postal services has not been published as yet in philatelic literature. Except for a paper presented on March 24, 1975, by the author of this article at a meeting of the "Study Circle of the Romanian Philatelists' Association" in Bucharest, information on this material has not been previously available to the public. To fill this gap, I present here those markings from my collection together with the associated data on issue and usage.

The tourist mail markings do not have the characteristics of the customary postal markings used to cancel stamps but are markings attesting to the obligation of the tourist company to perform —on request—the carriage of the illustrated postcards to the nearest official post office for posting, a service probably pre-paid by the sale of the cards at higher prices.

In conclusion, these markings are mail connected but they are different from the markings that were in normal postal usage and have to be studied as such.

No.	Tourist site	Owner	Off. post office	Date
1	RARAU	T.C.R.	C.LUNG MOLD.	July 23, 1939
2	DOCHIA	-	CEAHLAU	Aug. 13, 1929
3	POSTAVARUL (Schuler)	-	BRASOV	Aug. 15, 1905
4	POIANA BRASOV (Schulerau)	S.K.V.	BRASOV	Feb. 3, 1931
5	TIMPA (Zinne)	-	BRASOV Aug.3,1907	-Aug.28, 1911
6	TIMPA (Grota Bethlen)	-	BRASOV	Aug. 1, 1923
7	OMUL	T.C.R.	BUSTENI	Sept.28, 1928
8	BUCEGI (Mălăesti)	-	BUSTENI	Sept. 9, 1907
9	BULBOCI (Bolboci)	S.K.V.	PETROSITA	May 23, 1937
10	PESTERA	T.C.R.	SINAIA	Aug. 10, 1927
11	PIATRA MARE	B.T.E.	-	-
12	BARCACIU	S.K.V.	-	-
13	NEGOI (B. Gutt)	S.K.V.	-	-
14	BILEA LAC (Bulea)	S.K.V.	-	-

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THE FORGERY OF THE 20 LEI BESSARABIA STAMP

by Gustav Noska, str. Lamiitei No. 48, 75278 Bucharest, Romania.

The original set of seven stamps was issued on April 30, 1928, on the 10th anniversary of the annexation of Bessarabia. This is one of the few cases where a single stamp (Scott #335) of a Romanian issue was forged, probably to defraud the Romanian posts.

The major distinguishing characteristics of the original and the forgeries were as follows:

1. The original stamp was printed with a cliche made by photogravure while the forgery was made by zincography, a process that uses engraved zinc printing plates.

2. The original was printed on a white and smooth paper while the forgery was printed on a thin, porous and yellowish paper.

3. The original is violet-black and perforated 13½. The forgery is grey-brown and perforated 13 x 13½. The size and the watermark (horizonal wavy lines) are the same.

4. The forgery's design is coarser than that of the original, and the differences can be seen with the unaided eye. The biggest difference is in the background which, on the original, is uniform with dots showing only under a strong magnifier. On the forgery, the background is made up of well-distinguishable dots, which is a characteristic of the zinc printing plates.

5. The frame with the national motif, on the original, is a distinct design, with well-defined straight lines and perfect corners while the frame on the forgery seems to be made up of some circles without corners.

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6. The letters of the word ROMANIA on the original are well formed with the corners and lines clearly defined while on the forgery, the letters are thicker and less precise, and the corners are rounded.

7. On the forgery, the two numerals "8" look like the letter "B" with the left side straight, the "2"s are flattened on the top, and the "9" in 1918 is flat at the bottom.

8. The letters of the words UNIREA BASARABIEI and CETATEA HOTINULUI, on the original are well formed while on the forgery, they are irregular and almost touching each other. Above and below these inscriptions, on the forgery there are no background dots, only white spaces.

9. The rowboat in the front of the fortress which is not very clear on the original, is unclear on the forgery and it looks bigger than on the original.

10. The shadow cast on the water by the fortress is more intense on the original than on the forgery. There are also other differences on the design of the fortress and of the landscape.

This, it should be noted, is the only known forgery of this stamp and, except for skilled experts, can generally be detected only by comparison with an original.

EARLY ROMANIAN TELEGRAM FORMS

by Dumitru Passalega, Alleea Branscusi, bl. A2, Sc. 2, et. II, apt. 9, 1100 Craiova, Romania.

Telegram forms were introduced in Romania at the turn of the century. They can be considered to be among the most interesting of the postal stationeries in terms of their conception, their evolution, their variety, their scarcity and the fine execution of the printed stamp. Because they have not been extensively studied, most catalogue listings of these forms are either erroneous, incomplete or both.

Telegram forms were introduced for the telegraph service under the telegraph-post law legislated by decree No. 861 of February 25, 1900. The last paragraph of art. 20 specified: *"The postal and telegraph administration is authorized to issue telegram forms in various denominations, as necessary".*

The general director of posts and telegraph, anticipating the new law, communicated the following, by circular No. 73, 123 of December 28, 1899, to the masters of the telegraph-post offices: *"To avoid the delays at the receiving windows, especially during rush hours, the department has introduced simple telegram forms, of 10 and 14 words, which will put into use on January 1"*

On January 4, 1900, the general director sent to the telegraph-post offices with circular No. 757 posters which were *"to be displayed in the office hall or in the most frequented places of the locality"*, which announced the

Original

Forgery

issuance of 25 bani, 80 bani and 1 leu stamped telegram forms.

The principle contained in the telegram-post law was detailed and defined in the regulation for applying the law which stipulated, in paragraph 2-7, the following:

"The telegrams can also be presented on telegram forms that are either deposited in special boxes at the telegraph offices or presented directly at the window." These forms are recorded in the register as any telegram with the word *"BON"* (translated: form, blank) entered in place of the postal tax and a receipt given if required by the sender, the tax having been included in the price of the form.

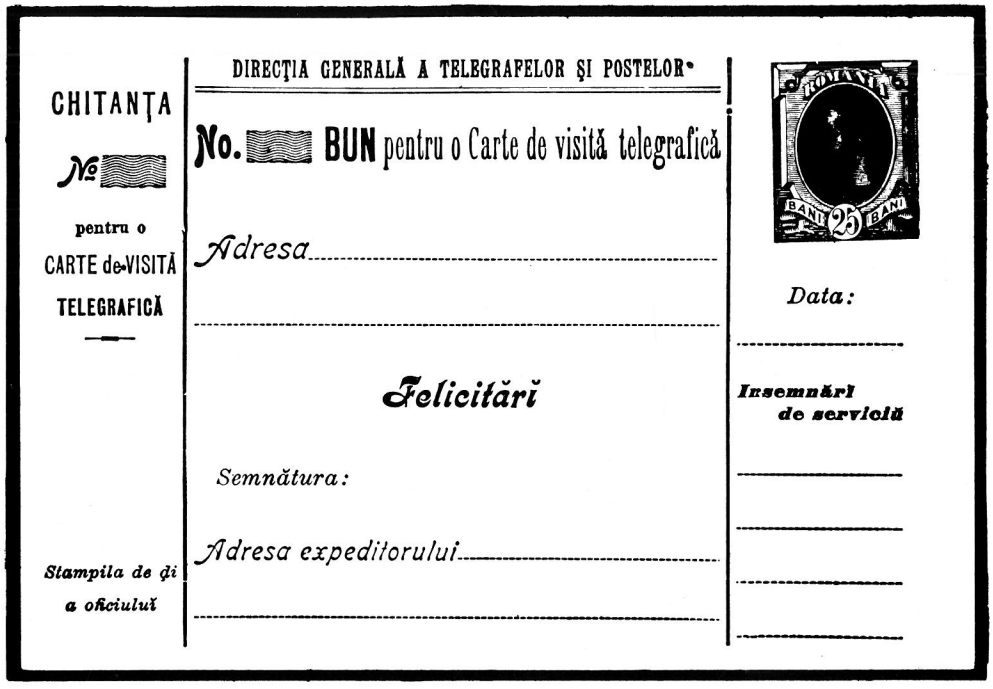
The telegram forms are made of cardboard and have a printed stamp of a specific value.

The clerks from the telegram counters are required to check continuously the special boxes and to pick up the deposited forms. The number from the register with receipt-stubs, under which the form is registered, will also be recorded on the form's stub which will be stamped with the date cancel, detached and given to the sender.

If the telegram form contains more words than is allowed by its value or has special indications, it must be presented to the window and the difference in tax must be paid in cash. In that case, the sender will be given the receipt-stub from the register with the paid tax difference recorded on it.

If the telegram form contains less words than is allowed by its value, the sender is not entitled to a refund of the differences in tax nor can it be considered as tax (paid) for another telegram.

The telegram forms found in the special boxes or in letter boxes, containing more words than is allowed by their value, will be returned to the senders with the mention



Greeting Telegram Issued in 1900

"because of insufficient franking . If the sender is unknown, the telegram forms are considered wasted."

In accordance with these instructions, in 1900, two telegram forms with printed 80 bani and 1 leu stamps respectively, were issued and put into circulation. They were made of white cardboard, 185 x 125 mm in size (there were small variations) with a printed text, as shown here.

The printed stamps were of the *"Wheat Ear"* type. The 80 bani stamp was bi-colored, with a green frame and red oval effigy of the king. It is important to note that among the *"Wheat Ear"* adhesive stamps there is no 80 bani denomination.

The 1 leu stamp was also bi-colored, light brown and rose which is the same as the 1 leu adhesive stamp listed an number 108c in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue. These two forms gave purchasers the right to send 10 words (on the form with the 80 bani stamp) or 14 words (on the form with the 1 leu stamp) by telegraph to the addressee.

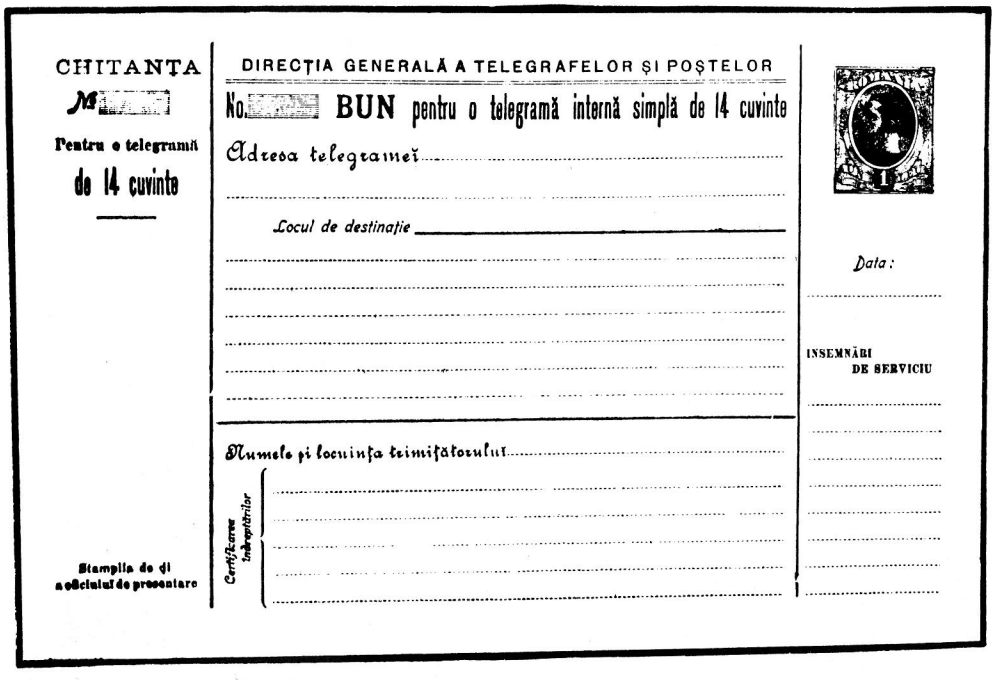
These two forms were divided into three fields: the one in the center contained the title and space for the address, the text of the telegram, and, at the bottom, the sender's name and address. The side fields were much narrower. The left side field had a place for the receipt number and the date cancel of the telegraph office. The right field, with the printed stamp in the upper right corner, was for service notes.

On the back of the forms, a list of ten *"Instructions"* were printed, the last one of which specified that the use of the telegram form is totally optional.

At the same time that these two telegram forms were released, a third form with a 25 bani printed stamp was issued as a simple greeting telegram, with one printed word: *"FELICITARI"* (translated: congratulations). The sender of this would write only the addressee's address and then sign it. This form had the title: *"BUN pentru o carte de vizita telegrafica interna '* (translated: GOOD for a domestic telegraph greeting card). It was made of white cardboard, 130 x 90 mm in size, with a 25 bani blue printed stamp of the *"Wheat Ear"* type, similar to the stamp listed as No. 129 in the 1974 Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue.

The instructions for using this form was based on article 27 of the same regulation, which reads as follows:

"The telegraph greeting cards are intended to be used only for greetings. They have no



Telegram Form Issued in 1900 (Reduced size)

text, only address and signature; the signature cannot contain more than three words. These greeting cards can be presented at the window on any day. Written on plain paper or on a special form made of cardboard with a 25 bani printed stamp. They can also be deposited in special boxes in the offices, applying the same rules as for the telegram forms '.

The usefulness of this type of telegraph greetings was expressed by the management of the department of telegraph and posts, in the following manner:

"The purpose of establishing these is to make it easier for the public by sparing them from having to go to the telegraph window, especially on days when the accumulation of the telegraphic correspondence is very heavy and the payment for the telegrams is made more difficult than on normal days".

To increase the use by the public, of the telegram forms, the management took some measures, such as:

—by telegraph memorandum nr. 13/1900, the telegraph offices were given instructions to show *"the greatest benevolence towards the public by giving all the explanations which will be required, even to excuse some errors in the word-count when joinings of words are not made intentionally".*

—by telegraphic memorandum nr. 489/1900, it was ordered that *"the telegram forms and the telegraph greeting cards should also be sold by independent dealers".*

Nevertheless, the extent of use of the telegram forms and even of the telegraph greetings was quite low as shown by the statistics of the management of the department of telegraph and posts (table will follow).

In May 1902, the telegram forms with the 80 bani stamp and the 1 leu stamp were withdrawn and the use of the forms with the 25 bani stamp (greeting cards) was restricted. This resulted from memo nr. 19, 987 of May 15, 1902, by which the management of the department of telegraph and posts communicated to the masters of the telegraph offices the following order:

"We inform you that the 80 bani and the 1 leu telegraph greeting cards are to be kept in circulation and they will be used only in offices of county seats who have the obligation to post at the windows for the convenience of the public to use greeting cards, on name days, without having to wait their turn to present them, when the windows are crowded".

Limiting the use of the telegraph greeting cards only to offices of county seats caused the decrease of the number of such cards sold in the following years (see table).

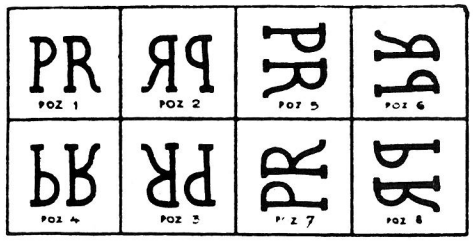
Year	Number sold: 25 bani	80 bani	1 leu
1901	16,054	717	550
1902	26,234	4,147	7,086
1903	10,535	-	-
1904	14,443	-	-

—To be continued—

THE "PR" WATERMARK

by Grigore Racoviceana, str. Tunarilor No. 6, 72121 Bucharest, Romania

It is known that the *"PR"* watermark (in four different sizes) of the *"Wheat Ear"* stamps (Scott #117-131), exists in the position 1-4 in almost all the issues. For a long time, I did not believe in the existence of this watermark in positions 5-8 despite the fact that they were noted by several authors. When I was faced with undeniable but rarely found evidence (about its existence) I searched for an explanation as to how this could come about and what follows are my speculations on this.



The first question to be addressed is whether the paper used for this issue was in rolls or in sheets. For sure, it was not in rolls because in that case, the watermark would have been found in only one position, or, in a very improbable situation, by reversing the roll and feeding the paper *upside down* (resulting in pos. 2), or by reversing the printing cliche (pos. 4), or both (pos. 3).

It is presumed that the *"Wheat Ear"* stamps were printed only on sheets but that these sheets were cut from the rolls. The printing press was not the rotary-type which uses rolls of paper but rather the flat bed *("Boston")* type which uses sheets cut into convenient sizes. The cutting was probably done in the printing plant which had equipment for this sort of work. Furthermore, the reception of and the accounting for the paper used to print valuable (security) items can be done precisely only for sheets and not for rolls.

Stamps with watermarks in the 1-4 positions can only be printed on a rectangular sheet of paper by feeding it to the press in four possible positions.

A sheet of 150 x 150 stamps of the *"Wheat Ear"* issue (Dr. Ilie Demetrescu of Burcharest has a half a sheet with 150 stamps) is aproximately 440 mm high (15 stamps of 28 mm and two margins of 10 mm) and 470 mm wide (10 stamps of 22 mm in every half sheet plus two margins and a gutter, each of 10 mm) or almost square shaped. (Barbu Popescu of Bucharest has a gutter pair).

When the paper was fed to the press the right way, stamps with watermarks in one of the 1-4 positions resulted. When it was fed to the press with the 440 mm side instead of the 470 mm side, stamps with watermarks in one of the 5-8 positions resulted. In that case however, fewer stamps were printed and there remained an extra unprinted 30 mm wide margin. Because every sheet had to be strictly accounted for, this kind of error required special bookkeeping formalitites to explain and justify the waste. The loss could also have been charged to the worker and this may explain the careful attention paid to the printing operation and the relative scarcity of watermarks in the 5-8 positions.

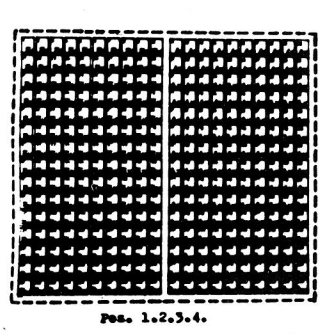
Wide margins, larger than 30 mm, could have produced a watermark in all 8 positions but this hypothesis should be rejected because it would have resulted in a significant waste of paper and, watermarks in the 5-8 positions would then not be so scarce.

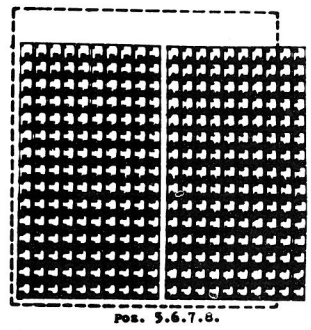
The *"PR"* watermark also presents a second peculiarity which is a very scarce variety: the existence of pairs of stamps of which one is watermarked and the other is not. One possible explanation for this variety is as follows: the watermark is created by the pressure of *"bits"* attached to the *"dandy roll"* of the paper-making machine. If one of these bits falls off of the roll, a portion of the paper will be without watermark.

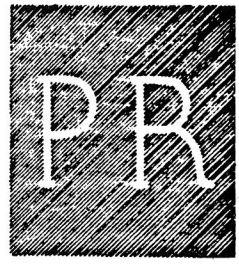
Another possibility is that on the dandy roll, there was a horizontal band without bits. This is based on the discovery of a horizontal pair of the 5 bani, emerald, stamps (Scott #121a) without any watermark (Kiriac Dragomir collection) and the existence of a vertical pair of 5 bani, emerald, stamps of which the one on the top is watermarked and the one on the bottom is unwatermarked (H. Riesenberg collection).

It can also be assumed that the sheet margins were not watermarked and that these margins were printed only by shifting the paper in the press. However, I do not believe that this could have been possible because the paper is fed into the printing press's guidance system with a tolerance of only a few milimeters. Besides, the sheet margins would have been too wide and this would have resulted in too much waste.

The above speculations represent my efforts to explain some of the peculiarities of the *"PR"* watermark and comments are invited.







One Of The Four Types Of "PR" Watermarks

A FIGURATIVE CANCEL USED ON ROMANIAN VESSELS

by Grigore Cuculis, str. Trandafirilor No. 14, 8800 Tulcea, Romania.

Many posts have used ship-type figurative cancels but the ones that were used in Romania are the most complete and perhaps the most beautiful. The cancel is complete because in addition to the illustration, it contains both the date and the ship's itinerary. These cancels could note eight different routes, representing eight different Danubian ambulatory post offices.

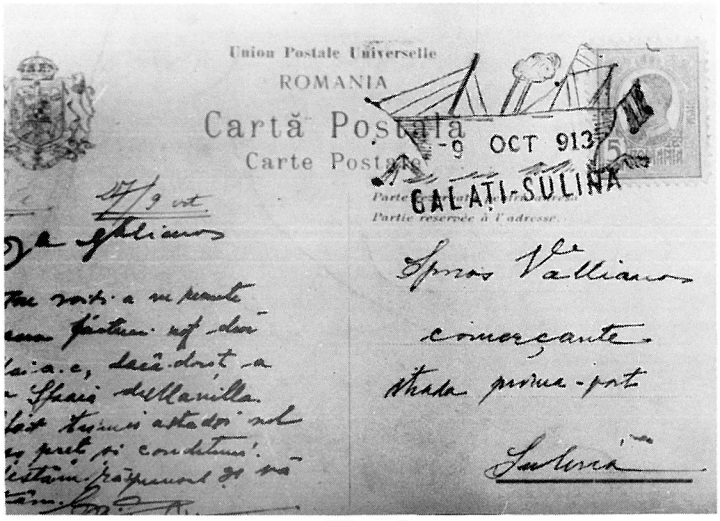


Fig. 1

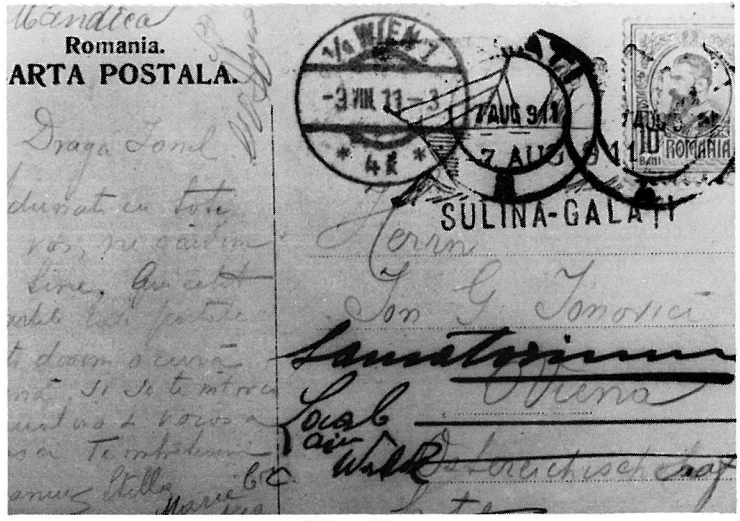


Fig. 2

The cancel illustrates a Romanian vessel navigating toward the left on the Danubian waves with the Romanian flag waving in the wind.

This postmark has been studied by several researchers, including: Armand Vrinceanu in Filatelia No. 8/1968; Grigore Cuculis in Filatelia No. 6/1960 and No. 5/1970; Mihai Bauer in Indrumatorul Filatelistului, 1970-71; Ludovic Dengel in Filatelia No. 1/1972; and Mihail Popovici in Filatelia No. 3/1973. The existence of ship-type figurative cancels has been documented for the following routes:

GALATI - TULCEA
TULCEA - GALATI
TULCEA - SULINA
SULINA - TULCEA
CERNAVODA - GALATI.

The existence of the following three cancels were accepted as presumptive but were not documented:

GALATI - SULINA
SULINA - GALATI
GALATI - CERNAVODA.

We will now provide proof of the existence of these three markings:

GALATI - SULINA

The oldest such cancel in my collection is a fragment with a clear date of September 8, 1896, on a stamp of the *"Wheat Ear"* type (Scott #118). Other items with this type of cancel include: stamps of the same set (Scott #128, 136, 138); a clear end-fragment of a neaspaper dated March 9, 1903 with a stamp (Scott #134); and an illustrated postcard dated October 9, 1913 and addressed to a merchant in Sulina. (Fig. 1)

SULINA - GALATI

In my collection the oldest items with this cancel include: Three stamps of the *"Numerals in four corners"* type (Scott #102 and two copies #105) without clear dates; several stamps of both the *"Wheat Ear"*, *"Engraved"* and *"Typographed"* types; and postcard dated August 7, 1911. (Fig. 2)

Existence of this type of cancel is also known from a Robson Lowe Ltd. auction catalogue (September 9, 1970), which presented three postal cards marked with these Romanian Danubian ambulatory ship-type figurative cancels, one SULINA - GALATI and two SULINA - TULCEA.

GALATI - CERNAVODA

The scarcity of this cancel (and its reverse variety CERNAVODA - GALATI) is explained by the unprofitability of this route for passenger voyages. The route was solicited by and probably imposed by the interests of various companies, societies and import-export agencies with headquarters in the larger Danubian ports, (Braila and Galati). During that period, the big bridge over the Danube river was not yet built and the connection with the port of Constantza was accomplished by ship to Cernavoda and from there to the sea by the *"Cernavoda-Constantza English Railroad"* and through the port of Hirsova, connecting with Constantza by stage coaches and *"trade caravans"*.

The oldest cancel of this kind is found on a 1897 *"Wheat Ear"* stamp. The postcard presented here was cancelled on October 1, 1911. (Fig. 3)

The existence of eight Romanian ambulatory posts which used figurative cancels

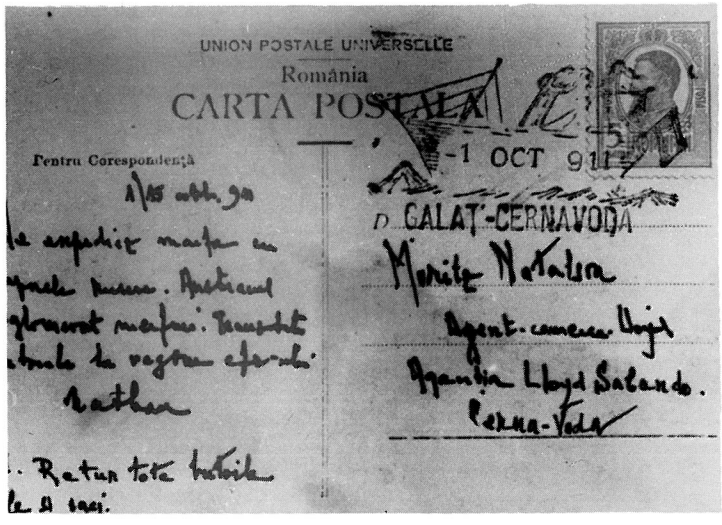


Fig. 3

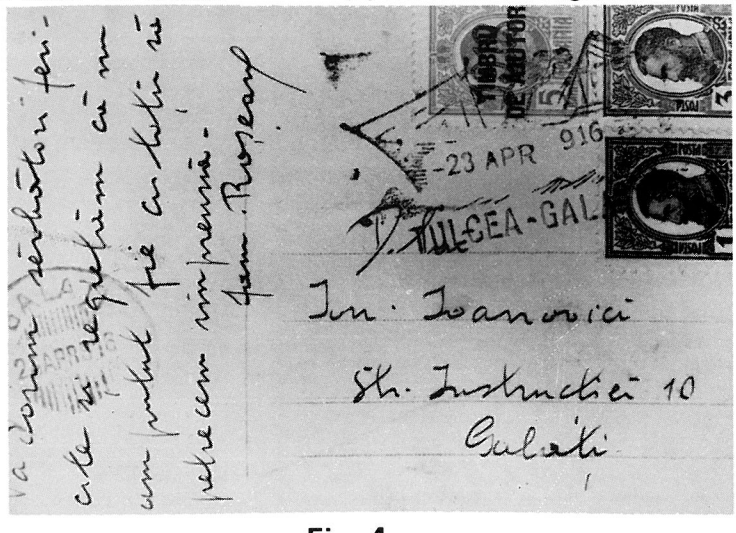


Fig. 4

on Danubian vessels has been this way documented. What was previously a hypothesis, is now proven. Eduard Cohen mentioned the existence of these posts from 1890 to 1900. The year 1890 noted by Cohen is historically justified. We attest as certain date of July 25, 1891, found on the CERNAVODA - GALATI route, however the date for the latest cancel mentioned by Cohen is incorrect; the Danubian ambulatory posts used figurative cancels well after 1900. One of my

Fig. 5

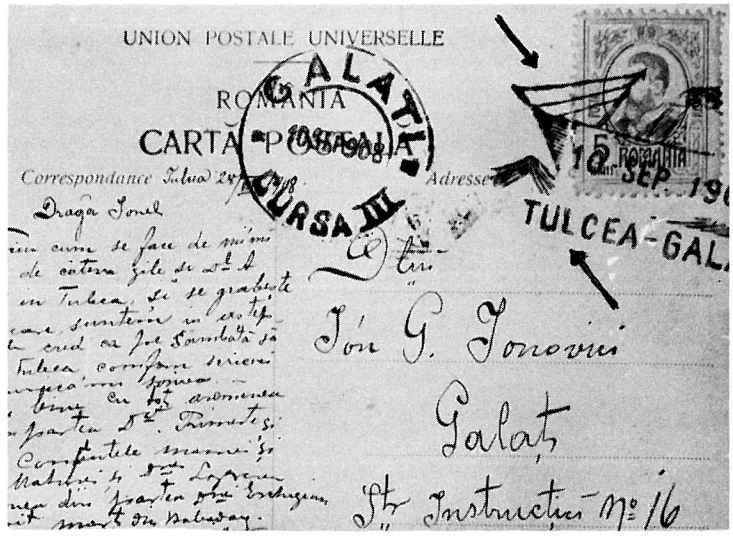


Fig. 6

postcards has a figurative cancel of the TULCEA - GALATI Danubian ambulatory posts, dated April 23, 1916. (Fig. 4)

Without limiting the study of the early and late uses of these figurative cancels, we present a table made with items found in my study collection:

The stamps bearing these ship-type cancels are of the following sets: *"Numerals in four corners"*; *"Wheat Ear"*; the 1908-1910 lithographed issue; the 1909-1914 typographed issue, and, less often, the *"Mail Coach"* and the *"Jubilee"* issues.

The ink color in 90% of the cases is black, sometimes black-brown and, seldom, blue.

We support the idea expressed by Mihail Popovici in his study (Filatelia, No. 3/1973), that because of their wear, some of these canceling devices had to be replaced. During their 25 or 26 years of use, these figurative cancelers have shown various changes in the design and the characters of letters and numbers.

We have previously shown in an article published in Filatelia (No. 5/1970), the changes on a GALATI -TULCEA cancel compared with the previously known cancels. For instance, the front mast is a simple line thickened at the base as is the upper board of the ship, the front mast is tightened in the front with four ropes. The character of the letters is also slightly different; capital letters at the beginning, later aldine or similar to the egyptian type. In the six years from 1902 to 1908, the canceler was replaced and the new one is different from the old one. (Fig. 5-6)

In many cases, the mechanism for printing the ship's route or of changing the date (day, month and year) was misadjusted. I have also found incompletely-printed dates which were filled in by the postal clerk in ink or pencil. For example, the number *"18"* in the date of July 18, 1902 on the postal card shown here is handwritten. (Fig. 7)

There are also spelling differences in the words indicating the route. For example, initially Cernavoda was written correctly in one word, CERNAVODA. Later on, it is spelled on a new canceler in two words: CERNA-VODA, and later, it was again spelled in one word, CERNAVODA.

It is interesting to note that in some cases, the ambulatory posts of the fluvial cruises (N.F.R.) serving the GALATI - SULINA route, under special circumstances took over items mailed to Romania from foreign maritime vessels. For example,this would occur when, because of the low water level, these ships were delayed from entering the port while waiting for dredging by C.E.D. (Commission Europeene du Danube).

An illustrated postcard mailed from Alexandria (Egypt) on April 11,1906, through the French posts of the Alexandria-Constantza maritime line, was taken over by the *"Constantinople-Galata"* office (on April 15, 1906) then taken by a French ship of the *"MERE NOIRE"* (Black Sea) line to the *"bara Sulinei"* (entrance to Sulina) from where it was mailed to Tulcea on April 17, 1906, with the SULINA - TULCEA ambulatory posts. On April 18, 1906, it was sent to the addressee. (Fig. 9)

The use of one or two cancelers on board a vessel (in the case of the ambulatory post office on the GALATI-CERNAVODA route, and return) was simple and could not cause canceling errors (at least, none have yet been

Fig. 7

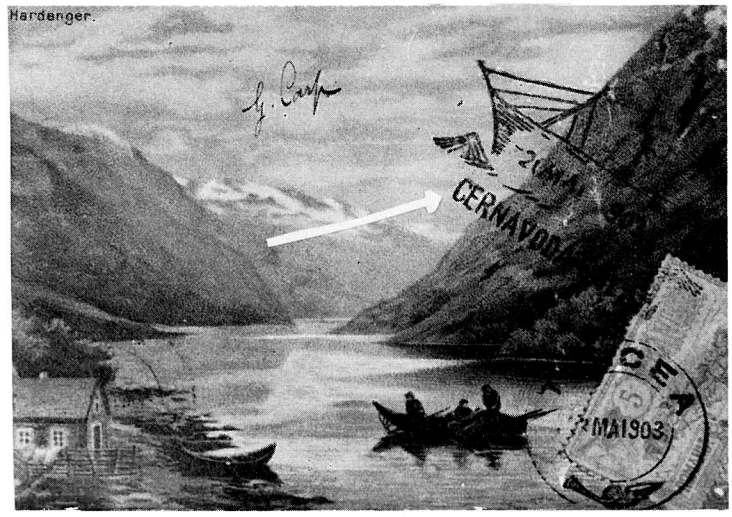


Fig. 8

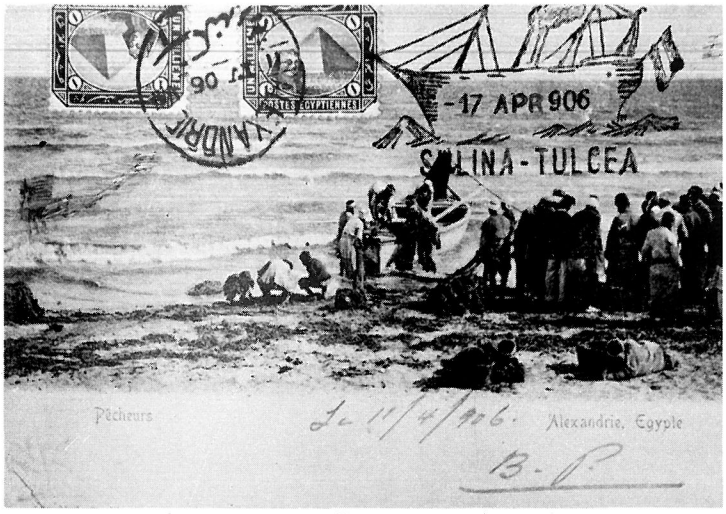


Fig. 9

Fig. 10

reported). However, on the GALATI - SULINA route (and return), the use of a single canceler required the change of the bottom line with the ship's itinerary to cancel the six possible and different routes: Galati-Tulcea, Galati-Sulina, Tulcea-Sulina, navigating towards the sea, and Sulina-Galati, Sulina-Tulcea, Tulcea-Galati, on return. This could produce, either by accident or because of the laziness of the postal clerk, some interesting cancel errors. Only in this way can we explain some correspondence mailed by ship from one locality and erroneously canceled with the canceler used or set for another port, and, consequently, of a different route. We present here a postcard sent on September 28, 1905 to Tulcea but canceled by mistake TULCEA - SULINA. Similar errors were also reported by Dr. L.N. Cristea, an English researcher of Romanian origin.

Also because of the postal clerk's inattention, on June 26, 1902, the TULCEA - SULINA figurative cancel was applied on a postcard mailedfrom Galati to Tulcea. (Fig. 10)

After WW I, the Romanian posts reorganized its ambulatory posts on Danube, using simpler, more modern and easier-to-use cancelers. However; this cancel, the most splended ship-type figurative cancel known, has already entered philatelic history.

Route:	Earliest date:	Latest date:
GALATI-TULCEA	1893 (on stamp)	Aug.27, 1902 (on postal stationery)
TULCEA-GALATI	Nov.16, 1892 (on stamp)	Apr.23, 1916 (on postal stationery)
GALATI-SULINA	Sep.8, 1896 (on fragment)	Oct.9, 1913 (on postal stationery)
SULINA-GALATI	1890/94 (on stamp)	June 1914 (on stamp)
TULCEA-SULINA	1901 (on stamp)	1914 (on stamp)
SULINA-TULCEA	March 8, 1895 (on fragment)	1914 (on stamp)
GALATI-CERNAVODA	1897 (on stamp)	Oct.1, 1911 (on postal stationery)
CERNAVODA-GALATI	July 25, 1891 (on stamp)	Aug.26, 1913 (on postal stationery).

REVIEW:

HOTEL POSTS OF HUNGARY AND ROMANIA

by L.M. and M. Williams

Published in 1962 in London, England, 12 pages. Available from H.J.M.R. Co., Box 6638, Hollywood, Florida 33021, stock No. 6050. Describes the Hohe Rinne Magura and Bistra local (hotel) stamps bringing for the first time in a booklet formn detailed information on these private issues to the English speaking philatelists. This is especially useful because these stamps are not listed by major cataloges.

REVIEW:

HOTEL POSTS OF THE SIEBENBURGISCHER KARPAHENVEREIN

by L.S. Ettre

Published in 1977 by the Society for Hungarian Philately, P.O. Box 1162, Samp Mortar Station, Fairfield, Conn. 06430, 32 pages.

The booklet presents facts on the local posts of Hohe Rinne and of Bistra with historical and geographical background information. All nine issues of the Hohe Rinne stamps are described and illustrated as well several of the cancels used with these stamps.

After the description of the Bistra stamps, the regulations of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania concerning the mail service to and from Bistra is also presented.

The author states in the Foreword that: *"In fact, there is practically no literature on these issues in either Hungarian or Romanian"*. This is incorrect. In addition to the articles published in the Romanian magazine *"Filatelia"*, there is L. Dengel's book, *"Istoria oficilor postale particulare si marcile lor, foste in circulatie pe teritoriul Romaniei de azi '* (reviewed in our No. 2/1977 bulletin), a much better and more comprehensive work (54 larger pages) on this subject, which was published in Romanian in 1947.

Furthermore, the 1974 Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu gives an excellent and up-daed account of these issues.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Copies of this 624-page specialized catalogue, together with a recent 96-page supplement, are available from the editor.

REVIEW:

EMISIUNILE DEMARCI POSTALE ROMANESTIAPARUTE IN ANII

'74, '75, '76. (The Romanian postage stamp issues of 74, '75, '76).

Published in 1977, in Bucharest, 96 pages. It is the supplement to the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue published in 1974 but the presentation of the stamps and the souvenir sheets is quite different from the one used in its more scholarly predecessorm Informative and well illustrated.

THE C.M.T. ISSUE

by Jan Czerniawski, Kolomyja.

(Published in Poland, in *"Ilustrowany Kurjer Filatelistyczny"*, in 1934, and in Romania, in *"Filatelia pentru Toti"*, nos. 1, 2, 3, of 1935.)

On Saturday, May 24, 1919, the Ukrainian army left Kolomyja and on Monday, May 26 of the same year, the entire Pokucia area was occupied by the Romanian army. During the first days of the Romanian occupation, all traffic stopped in this territory. From sunset until morning, nobody was allowed to leave home. It was even prohibited to turn on the lights in houses during this time. The post offices funtioned only in relation to the occupation authority which was the *"High Command of the Occupation Army in Pokucia '* under the command of a Romanian colonel, G. Liciu.

Private postal traffic was also nonexistent during this time; postal services were provided only for the occupation authorities through the Romanian posts, namely the *"Military Tel. Posts of the 8th Division"*. This was the situation until June 12, 1919.

Then Major Turbatu of the Romanian army arrived in Kolomyja as the representative of the higher authorities for post offices for the purpose of opening and moving the postal traffic in Pokucia. When he learnt at the Kolomyja post office that I am a long time philatelist (from before the war) and that I had taken part under the Ukrainian authorities in the issuance of the Ukrainian stamps, he invited me to the post office.

I met Major Turbatu there and after greeting formalities, he declared that he had come to Kolomyja on the order of the Romanian authorities to restore the normal posts for civilians. He asked me to tell him my opinion on this matter and to give him advice regarding the stamps which would have to be used during the Romanian occupation.

I told him the best thing would be to introduce Romanian stamps because probably an adequate number of Ukrainian and Austrian stamps could not be found. Major Turbatu answered that the Occupation High Command did not wish to use Romanian stamps because Pokucia was occupied only temporarily and added at the same time that a large number of Austrian stamps had been collected from all the post offices in Pokucia, they were already in Cernauti and they will have to be overprinted to avoid the use of Austrian stamps from other places, to the detriment of the postal treasury. This overprint had to be chosen so as not to show openly the sovereignity of the Romanian state over the occupied territory.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the Austrian stamps would bear the overprint *"C.M.T."* (Comandamentul Militar Teritorial) and an indication of the new values: 40h, 60h and 1K20h. For this purpose, three rectangular metal cancelers had to be made. Then, Major Turbatu said that he would leave immediately for Cernauti where the above-mentioned cancelers were to be manufactured and with which all the Austrian stamps in Cernauti would be overprinted. These stamps would then be brought to Kolomyja by him after two or three days.

Size of overprints in mm:			
Type	Frame	C.M.T.	Value
40h	16.5x14.5	6	3.5
60h	16.5x14.5	6	3.5
1K20h	18.5x14.5	7	4.0

Meanwhile, the postal traffic was also opened for use by civilians. For franking purposes, a very small quantity of Romanian stamps was put at the post office's disposal. Following my request, two of these stamps were applied on a postal stationery, cancelled with the date of June 12, 1919 (the opening day of the post office) and given to me as a philatelist.

I make the observation here that because of the strict censorship of letters, postal traffic was very limited during the entire occupation. Civilians mailed letters almost always to authorities in official matters.

On the afternoon of June 14, Major Turbatu returned to Kolomyja bringing the entire quantity of the Austrian stamps, which were overprinted in the manner shown above. (Editor's Note: This is incorrect; only part of the overprinted stamps were brought to Kolomyja, the rest was left in Cernauti.) Right after his arrival, he invited me to the Post Office and there, in the cashier's office, he showed me the stamps that he brought. We both examined them, sheet by sheet, checking if they corresponded with the table brought by Major Turbatu. Responding to my request, Major Turbatu permitted me to copy this table for philatelic purposes in order to establish the number of the overprinted stamps.

This table is presented here with explanations. From this table, the following facts emmerge:

a). The number of stamps of each value that were overprinted and which Austrian stamps were used.

b). The fact that part of them were sent, right after Major Turbatu's arrival, to the post offices of Delatyn, Lanczin, Sniatyn and Horodenka as well as the types that were sent.

c). The fact that besides stamps, Austrian 10 Heller postal cards were also overprinted (with 40h) for domestic and foreign use.

Right after his arrival, Major Turbatu ordered that all the other post offices in the occupied territory would be required to request the necessary stamps from the Kolomyja post office.

I was informed by Major Turbatu that in the above mentioned manner all of the available Austrian stamps were overprinted and distributed, that he had no more to distribute, and, that in case the overprinted quantity will be not sufficient for the duration of the occupation, it will be necessary to introduce current Romanian stamps.

The published table indicated that only 13 different Austrian stamps were overprinted.

Other overprinted stamps (on Austrian stamps) were not made during the occupation. (Editor's Note: This is incorrect). For this reason, all other overprints have to be considered as speculative.

I mention that Major Turbatu graciously gave me all of the information presented above. I was a philatelist and beside that, the occupation authority named me representative justice for the whole duration of the occupation.

In addition to the offices mentioned in the table, the following post offices asked for and received from the Kolomyja post office, C.M.T. stamps: Peczenizyn and Zablotow, each 360; Obertyn, 240. Besides these, no other post offices asked for postal matter.

Based on letters coming to Kolomyja, I could note that the stamps were used in Kolomyja, Peczenizyn, Zablotow, Sniatyn, Obertyn and Horodenka. I also have covers from these places in my collection. I don't have and I have not seen letters from Delatyn and Lanczyn.

Together with the postal matter, Major Turbatu brought on June 14, 1919, an official ordinance of the occuaption army in Pokucia, drawn up only in German, through which the introduction of the C.M.T. stamps was announced. The title of the ordinance, which

Postal matter	Postage stamps								Postage due stamps					P.cards
Overprint	40h	60h	60h	60h	60h	1K20h	1K20h	1K20h	40h	1K20h	1K20h	1K20h	1K20h	40h
Orig. value	5H	15H	20H	25H	30H	50H	60H	1K	5H	25H (1910)	25H (1916)	30H	50/42H	10H
Post office	Quantities:								Quantities:					Qties:
Kolomyja	8	2500	8000	2000	1400	1400	40	220	400	58	-	17	15	600
Delatyn	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	150	100	20	-	-	-	100
Lanczyn	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	150	100	20	-	-	-	100
Sniatyn	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	150	100	20	-	-	-	100
Horodenka	-	500	2000	300	300	300	-	150	100	-	120	-	-	100
Total:	8	4500	16000	3200	2600	2600	40	820	800	118	120	17	15	1000

we will publish later is:

"Instruktionen betreffend die Wiederaufnahme des amtlichen und privaten Post und Telegrphen verkehrs im besetzten Gebiet". (Editor's Note: The ordinance was not included in this article.)

This ordinance was posted only in the post office, at the prefect's office and in the city hall of Kolomyja.

The technical execution of the C.M.T. stamps was made with three cancelers of 40h, 60h and 1K20h. These cancelers (handstamps) were obtained from the military authorities of Cernauti.

The color of the stamps' overprint used in Pokucia during the occupation was dark blue. (Editor's Note: Incorrect, it was shades of violet.) Overprints in other colors: red or black have to be considered as speculative.

Having examined, in the presence of Major Turbatu, all of the sheets, I noticed that among the stamps of 60h on 20H, there were eight sheets on which the first stamp had an inverted overprint, certainly because of the soldier's mistake, who applied the overprint. Besides this, a larger quantity of stamps of these sheets had double overprint.

With Major Turbatu's approval, I immediately bought a block of four with inverted overprint and double overprint. All the other stamps with errors remained at the post office to be used. Except for these two above-mentioned errors, all the other stamps were exact.

The Romanian occupation lasted until August 20, 1919. On that day, all the post offices returned on Major Turbatu's orders, all unsold postal matter. At that time, these were also withdrawn from sale in Kolomyja.

On August 20, 1919, I was invited by Major Turbatu to the Post Office where I bought for collection a few of the unsold stamps; the rest was counted by Major Turbatu in my presence and, together with the prepared table, was taken to Cernauti. I copied this table with Major Turbatu's consent and in his presence; confirm this table from the entire stock remained unsold:

5499 stamps 60h on 20H
12 stamps 60h on 15H
130 stamps 1K20h on 50H
41 stamps 40h on 5H
2 stamps 1K20H on 50 postage due
30 stamps 1K20H on 25H postage due 1910.

Aside from the above indicated, no other stamps were left. On August 21, 1919, the evacuation of the Romanian army began and in the mean time, the Polish army took over the Pokucia territory.

This is all about the authentic C.M.T. stamps which were in circulation in Kolomyja and Pokucia.

In every catalogue, we find in addition to the above-mentioned 13 original C.M.T. stamps a long set of other values of this issue with fantastic prices.

We have to ask: where do these stamps come from? This was for a long time an enigma to me because I personally followed the genesis of these stamps in all of their phases and I had accurate data on their numbers.

Only in January 1920, I found out how this happened with the C.M.T. stamps other than the 13 mentioned above. On January 20, 1920, I was visited by Dr. W.R., a philatelist who at the same time was doing some philatelic trading. During the discussion on the C.M.T. stamps, I expressed to him my surprise regarding the many kind of C.M.T. stamps which were not known to me as originals but which were listed in catalogues.

Dr. W.R. gave me the following explanation:

a) A few days before August 20, 1919, a professor from Cernauti whose name Dr. W.R. did not know or did not want to tell, came to Kolomyja and brought 100 complete sets of Austrian 3H-1K postage stamps and a quantity of postage due stamps of the SH-1K values. In the absence of Major Turbatu, these stamps were cancelled with the postal cancel of Kolomyja. Later, after the end of the Romanian occupation, he succeeded, I don't know how, in over printing these stamps with the various original C.M.T. overprints. The professor took these stamps to Vienna and sold them as originals, among the buyers of which was also the well known philatelic company F. which bought a whole set.

b) After the occupation, at the beginning of September, a speculative corporation was formed in Cernauti which bought a quantity of mint Austrian stamps, applied on them, the original C.M.T overprint, and took them to Vienna, together with the original cancelers to prove the authenticity of the offered merchandise. At the same time, an *"official"* destruction of the cancelers was performed in order to make impossible the manufacture of these overprinted stamps in the future. This destruction was made in the presence of a notary public, Dr. W.R., and two representatives of one of the most important philatelic companies of Vienna. The notary prepared a special document regarding the destruction of C.M.T. cancelers.

It is true that the overprinting of the stamps (other than the excess of 13 noted above) was done with the original cancelers but this was neither done on the order of the competent authorities nor during the time when the C.M.T. overprinting was allowed. Therefore, all of the C.M.T. stamps, except the 13 noted above have to be considered speculative and I am convinced that nobody can prove that they are found on authentic letters that went through the regular mail.

In this way is explained the secret of the C.M.T stamps, unauthentic even if they were made with the original handstamps.

MORE ON THE C.M.T. ISSUE

by George Pataki.

In nos. 10, 11-12 of 1940 and 1, 2, 3-4 of 1941 of the *"Revista Societatii Filatelice Romane '*, published in Bucharest, I. Bogdan brings valuable contributions to the history of the C.M.T. stamps, some contradicting, others confirming and even complementing the description given by Jan Czerniawski in his article *"The C.M.T. issue"* presented above.

I. Bogdan argues that these stamps were officially made and used on the orders on the Territorial Military Command of the Romanian Occupation Army of Pokucia and that this was made public in a 14-point *"Instructions"* even if the Ministry of Posts of the Romanian government had nothing to do with this issue.

He also states that besides the postal cards for domestic use and the ones for international use, some 200 military (Feldpostkarten) postal cards (light grey or yellowish-grey) were over printed, (with 40h) the entire lot being around 1,000.

Bogdan's article presents statements made by various people involved in the overprinting and/or distributing this issue.

Ilariu Ostapovici, controller in the Postal Department of Cernauti, declared, for example that the overprinted stamps were legal for use allover Romania and not only in the occupied Pokucia.

Major Diagu C. declared that the overprinted stamps could be used throughout Romania until the day the Romanian army left the occupied territory, that the hand stamps were made of bronze, and that the ink was mostly black-violet (the color used by the Austrian posts) and seldom blue or red.

Bogdan also quotes Urziceanu, an engineer with the Railroad Administration, who declared that he had a brother, a captain stationed in Cernauti, and that at his request, his brother had bought at the Central Post Office in Cernauti (at the postal window of the 8th division) several of these stamps. This is important because it shows that the C.M.T. stamps were also sold outside Pokucia and that the number of overprinted stamps had to be greater than indicated in the table made in Kolomea by Turbatu-Czerniawski.

The article quotes a reputable philatelist, Dr. W. Pohl who published an article in *"Der Postverzeichenhandler"* in Berlin (Jan. 15,

1925), stating that the C.M.T. issue was not made with the intention of creating philatelic rarities and that to the contrary, all the available Austrian stamps were overprinted, and presented a table of these stamps (18 postage stamps and 11 postage due stamps) that existed in the Central Post Office's warehouse in Cernauti, on August 5, 1919. This proves that many values other than the ones sent to Kolomea were overprinted and that the total number of overprinted stamps is larger than the one given by Czerniawski.

Another article on this subject, worth mentioning, is by Odo Gh. Boehm. It was published in *"Postmarke"* of February 1934,

ODO G.H. Boehm's Table of Overprinted Stamps

40h on:		Year	Number	Overprint errors
3H lilac-red	franking stamps	1913		
3H violet		1916	20,272	invtd. sdwy. dbl.
5H light green		"	16,044	" "
6H orange		"	780	" " "
10H claret		"	9,063	" "
12H blue-green		"	722	" "
20H dark green-blue		1917		-
25H blue		"	4,000	-
40H olive		1916		"
5H red	postage due stamps	1916	9,565	-
10H red		"	1,725	"
15/36H violet		1917		" only,
20/54H orange		"		-

60h on:		Year	Number	Overprint errors
5H light green	franking stamps	1916		pair with 40H/5H
6H orange		"		inverted only
12H blue-green		"		invtd. sdwy.
15H red-brown		1917	14,589	"
20H dark green-blue		"	68,307	" "
20H green		"		1 sheet in Kol.
25H blue		"	6,313	inverted
30H violet		"	5,237	"
40H olive		1916	3,564	"
50H dark green		"	3,200	-
60H dark blue		"	10,256	"
15/36H violet	postage due stamps	1917	1,334	-
20H red		1916	737	-
30H red		"		2 stamps known
1K blue		"		pair with 1.20/1K

1K20h on:		Year	Number	Overprint errors
3H violet	franking stamps	1916		-
5H light green		"		-
15H red-brown		1917		-
25H blue		"		-
50H dark green		1916	15,094	inverted
60H dark blue		"	7,650	"
80H brown-red		"	6,750	-
90H dark lilac		"	184	-
1K red on yellow		1918	2,662	inverted
20/54H	postage due stamps	1916	900	-
25H red		1910	83	-
25H red		1916	300	inverted
30H red		"	872	-
40H red		"	498	-
50H red		"		inverted
50/42H brown		1917	1,304	"
1K blue		1916	3,325	"

Romanian occup. of POKUCIA 1938 Romanian Catalogue by C.Năməloiu & G.Noska
40h/ 3H red-lilac
40h/ 3H violet
40h/ 5H green-yellow
40h/ 6H orange
40h/10H red-lilac
40h/12H blue-green
40h/15H red-brown
40h/20H green-blue
40h/25H dark blue
40h/40H olive
40h/60H blue
60h/ 5H green-yellow
60h/ 6H orange
60h/12H blue-green
60h/15H red-brown
60h/20H green-blue
" light green
60h/25H dark blue
60h/30H violet
60h/40H olive
60h/50H dark green
60h/60H dark blue
1K20h/ 3H violet
1K20h/ 5H green yellow
1K20h/15H red-brown
1K20h/25H dark blue
1K20h/30H violet
1K20h/50H dark green
1K20h/60H dark blue
1K20h/80H brown-red
1K20h/90H lilac-red
1K20h/ 1K red on yellow
Postage due stamps
40h/ 5H red
40h/10H red
40h/15 on 36H violet
40h/20 on 54H orange
60h/15on15on36H violet
60h/20 on 54H orange
60h/20H red
60h/30H red
60h/ 1K blue
1K20h/20 on 54H orange
1K20h/20H carmine
1K20h/25H red
1K20h/30H red
1K20h/40H red
1K20h/50 on 42H brown
1K20h/50H red
1K20h/ 1K ultramarine.

and in the March and April 1935 issues of *"Filatelia pentru toti"*.

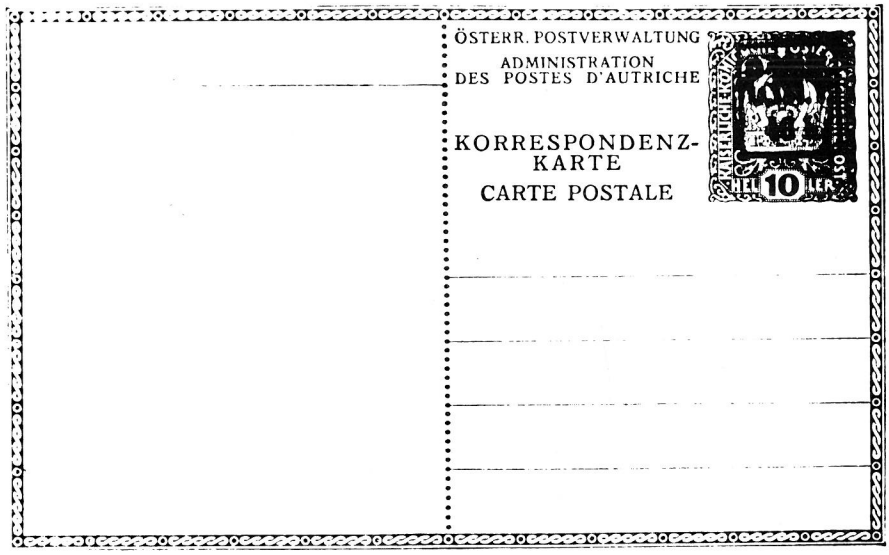
The author mentions that certain values of the overprinted Austrian stamps were sent to Kolomea for distribution and use but other values were left at the Central Post Office in Cernauti and later sold; consequently they can be found only mint. The postal rates at the time were: 40H for a postcard, 60H for a letter and 1K20H for the registration fee, therefore all the available Austrian stamps were overprinted with these values. O. Gh. Boehm states that at the beginning, some stamps were overprinted as *"color proofs"* with blue and with red ink but they were not satisfactory and the color was changed to black. Later the ink pads were refilled with violet ink, as a result the overprints were black (scarce), later black-violet, finally violet.

As described by Boehm, the overprinting was done in the Central Post Office of Cernauti by postal clerks supervised by military personnel. When one of the clerks got tired, another clerk replaced him but as a result of not always checking the cancler's postion, sideway and inverted overprints resulted.

In his article, the author presents several tables which indicate that many more stamps and many more values of Austrian stamps were overprinted than the one known to Jan Czerniawski in Kolomea because they were not sent to Pokucia.

According to Boehm, all the overprinted Austrian stamps (see the enclosed table) were of the 1913, 1916, 1917/18 postage stamp issues and of the 1910, 1916 and 1917 postage due stamp issues.

Several catalogues also list other overprinted values but the author is dismissing them as mistakes or forgeries.



O. Gh. Boehm considers the stamps with authentic red or blue overprints as essays (color proofs) and he lists as known the following: Red overprint; 40h on 3 and 5H; 60h on 3, 5, 25, 30, 60H; 1K20h on 30H. Blue overprint: 40H on 5H; 60h on 5, 20, 30,40, 50, 60H; 1K20h on 1K postage stamps, and 1K20 on 25, 50/42H postage due stamps. He concludes that the majority of the essays existing in commerce have forged overprints.

The 1938 Romanian Catalogue (by C. Namoloiu & G. Noska) gives an even longer list than Boehm for the C.M.T. issue: 32 postage and 17 postage due stamps. The 1946 Romanian Catalogue (by F. Konrad) gives almost the same list, specifying that the overprint is dark violet and was made with aniline-based ink.

In conclusion, insofar as the number and the types of the overprinted values are concerned, to use an old saying: *"only one thing is certain: that nothing is certain"*. The turbulent war years and the lack of accurate bookkeeping of the military bureaucracy made possible this chaos and uncertainty and forced the collectors to shy away from this historically interesting but inaccurately documeted issue.

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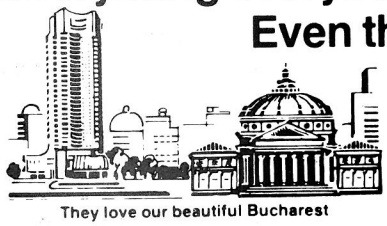
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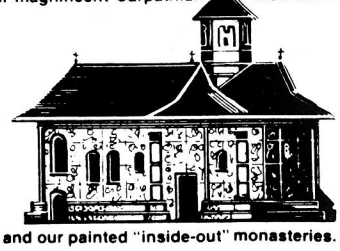
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PRINTING IRREGULARITIES OF THE SECOND ROMANIAN WRAPPER (1871)

by David Gijiriguiann 154-16 24th Rd. Whitestone, N.Y. 1357.

The philatelic literature offers a satisfactory general description of the Romanian wrappers. To mention only the most recent studies, the Romanian Catalogue (1974) on pages 469-471 offers a good description of the first two wrappers. Also in ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES, nos. 1 and 2, 1978 Mr. Dumitru Passalega, a well known authority in Romanian Postal Stationery researches, gives historical and descriptive details of the Romanian wrappers.

In this article we present some printing irregularities of the second wrapper, chosen from a relatively large lot. It should be noted that even the wrappers that do not present irregularities have a few faults which can be observed in all of them. (See: Wrapper no. 2, General type). These general irregularities are the following:

General Type

a). Two dots after A of POSTA

b). Irregular design of the angular ornament between the two circular frames, above the last I of PERIODICE

c). The right leg of M in ROMANA has no serif.

Besides these general faults a number of wrappers presents irregularities due to the fact that the plates became worn, some defects appeared, and in some cases slight retouches were necessary. It was not possible to find a certain continuity in the pattern of the irregularities. These irregularities appear mostly on wrappers printed on yellow-orange paper, a fact which might suggest that these are a later printing as compared to those printed on yellow paper.

Numbered from 1 to 24 we show below some of the irregularities we could identify:

1: a). Broken lower part of the letter O in POSTA, and the inner circle under it.
b). Dot in the fraction line of ½, left.

2: Small break in the inner rectangular frame line in front of T of POSTA.

3: a). Dot on the fraction line of right ½.
b). Small break of the inner rectangular frame line in front of N of ROMANA.
c). Color spots between O and M of ROMANA.

4: a). Small break of the outer rectangular frame line between P and O of POSTA.
b). Oblique white hairline above E of DIARE.
c). White dot behind the neck in the effigy.

5: White hairline breaking the outer rectangular frame and the upper part of letter A in POSTA.

6: a). Outer rectangular frame broken in front of O of ROMANA.
b). Inner rectangular frame broken between N and A of ROMANA.

7: a). Outer rectangular frame broken above 2 of right ½.

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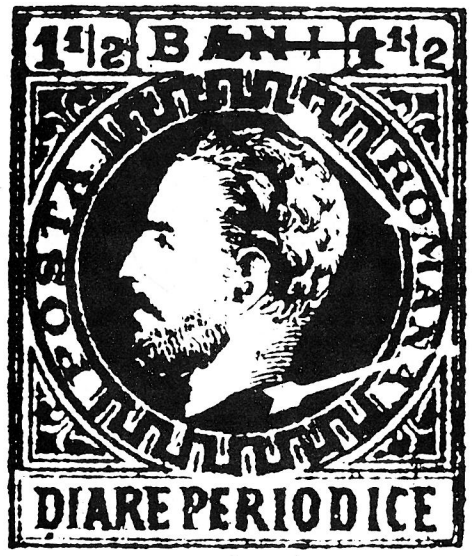

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b). White hairline under the chin.
c). Broken frame of the lower left triangular ornament.

8: a). Irregular broken design of the angular ornament above O of PERIODICE.
b). Color hairline below left 2.
c). White hairline in front of the neckline.

9: a). Outer circular frame broken between S and T of POSTA.
b). Color hairline under the ear.
c). Color dots in and in front of M in ROMANA.

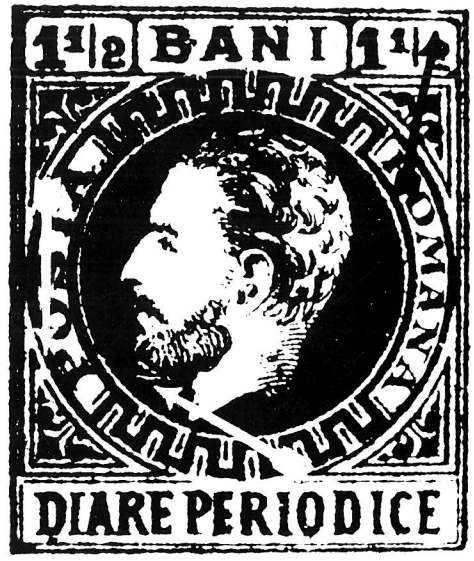
10: Shorter vertical line in left ½.

11: a). Color dot in front of P of POSTA.
b). Irregular broken design of the angular ornament above P of PERIODICE.

12: a). Space between two rectangular frames filled with ink, above A of BANI.
b). Thick A in BANI.
c). Color dot above I of BANI.
d). Inner rectangular frame broken in front of R of ROMANA.

13: a). Vertical line starting below the right 2 of ½.

6



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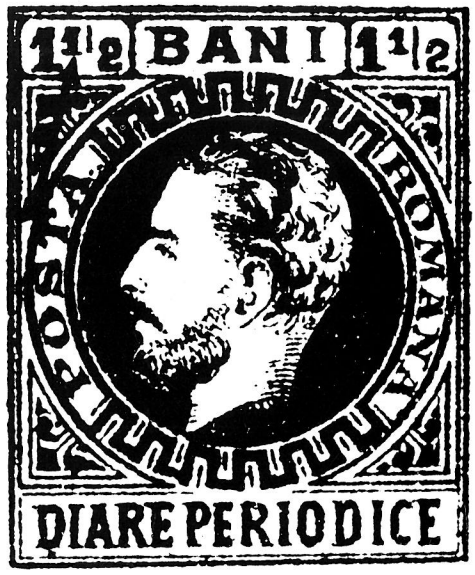

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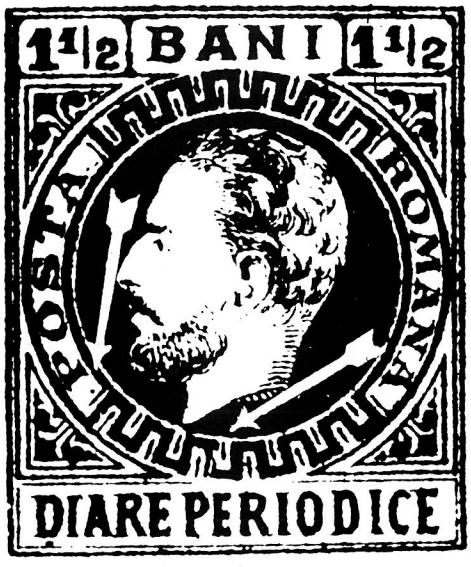

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b). Spots in the inner white circle under S and T of POSTA.

14: Vertical line starting at the fraction line of right ½ and continuing through the lower rectangular frame under last E of PERIODICE.

15: a). White dot on the upper part of B in BANI.
b). White hairline on the second I of PERIODICE breaking the frame above.

16: The left leg of A in BANI longer than the right leg.

17: a). White dot in the upper serif of I in BANI.
b). Color dot under P of POSTA.
c). Color dot outside the rectangular frame, on the lower right side.

18: Inner circle broken after A of POSTA.

19: a). The left leg of N in BANI thinner than the right leg.
b). color dot between the right fraction line and 2.

20: Broken outer rectangular frame in front of T of POSTA.

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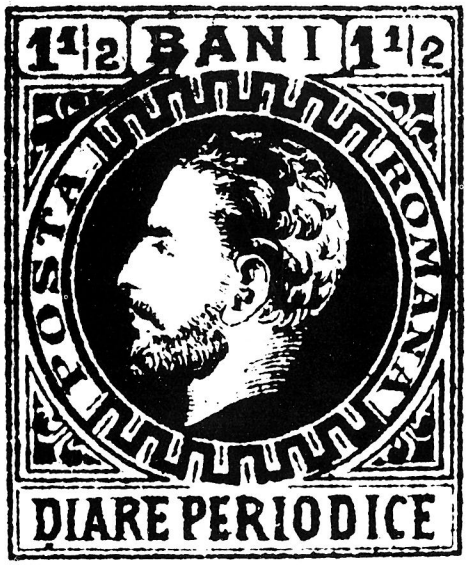

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21: a). White hairline under A of POSTA.
b). Color hairline above D of PERIODICE.

22: a). Two color hairlines above E of DIARE.
b). The outer and inner rectangular frames repaired between B and A of BANI.

23: a). Two color hairlines above E of DIARE.
b). White dot on lower part of C in PERIODICE.

24: a). The outer and inner rectangular frames broken between O and D of PERIODICE.
b). Color dot above the first I of PERIODICE.
c). Outer rectangular frame broken between O and S of POSTA.
d). R of PERIODICE thick, color dots under R inside the two rectangular frames.
e). Irregularities in the design of the ornament above RI of PERIODICE.

The study of these wrappers demonstrates once again how fascinating the study of postal stationery could become, and how often we may encounter new opportunities in this field. We believe that signaling these varieties to the philatelic community will push the collectors in studying other wrappers and postal stationery materials.

SPECIAL CANCELS

by Ladislau Rothman, 29 Metza Street, Ramat Chen, Israel.

SPECIAL CANCELS FOR NEWSPAPERS

Right from the beginning, mailing of newspapers was a special preoccupation of the Romanian posts, fact reflected by various methods of mailing and the various postal markings used at different times.

Stamps for newspapers, wrappers with printed stamps and the circular cancel with the inscription *"ZIARE"* (newspapers) or *"EXPED. ZIARE"* (mailing of newspapers) are well-known.

There also existed, little known and in small number, cancels with the name of the newspaper, probably some kind of *"publisher's post office"* cancels.

I succeeded in identifying three of these types, as follows:

BUCURESCI No. 5 date INDEPENDANCE ROUMAINE,

ELLENZEK date CLUJ (newspaper in Hungarian, published in Cluj between WWI and WWII),

LAPKIADOK date ? (*"newspaper publishers"*, probably having a general use for newspapers published in Hungarian).

I should be noted that on these types of cancels, besides the name of the city written in Romanian, the names of the newspapers are reproduced exactly in the original foreign languages (French and Hungarian).

It is also worth mentioning a perfin with the name of the ADEVERUL newspaper because this perforation was also done with the approval of the postal authorities.

ORIENT EXPRESS

Very little was written on the postal services done on the ORIENT EXPRESS train. Tchilinghirian & Stephen in *"Austrian Post Offices Aboard"* (page 279), chapter *"K) Mail via Orient Express Railway"* described this mail transport, presenting its various types of cancels.

ORIENT EXPRESS

In addition to the cancels presented in this work, other types were also used. For example, I have in my collection a postcard, mailed from St. Gallen, Switzerland (February 21, 1918) to Constantinople (through Romania) bearing a rectangular Z55 x 5mm) *"ORIENT EXPRESS"* cancel.

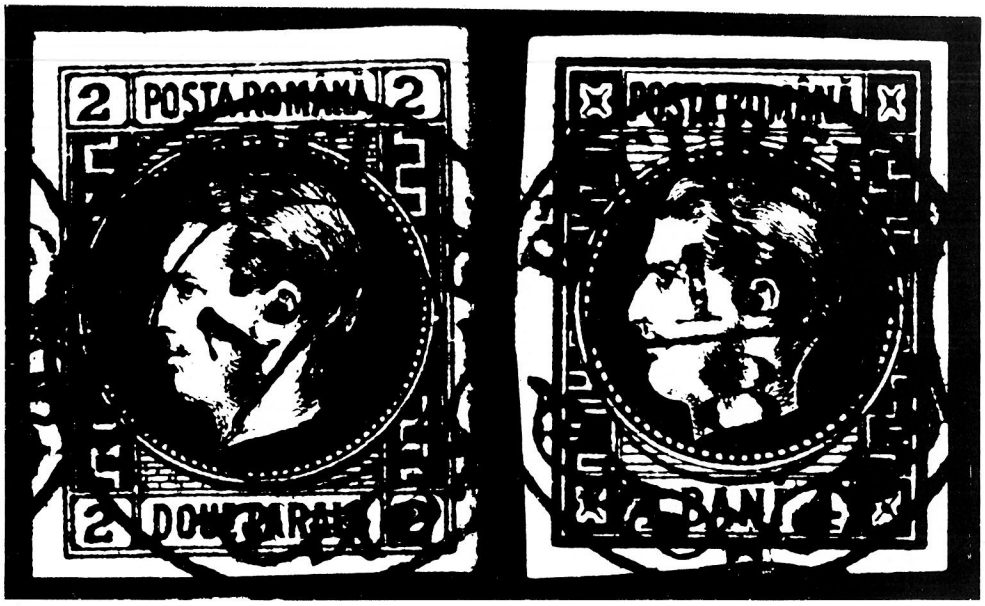
The ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB meets on every first SATURDAY of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Romanian Library, 200 East 38th St., corner of 3rd Ave., New York City, N.Y.

The ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB membership is open to those interested in Romanian philately and postal history. The fee of $5.00 includes a subscription to the quarterly bulletin: ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES.

Send your check payable to ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB to Miron Abramovivi, 209 Berger St., Somerset, N.J. 08873.

Additional and back copies of this bulletin (Nos. 1, 2, 3, of 1977, 1, 2, 3, 4, of 1978) can be ordered for $1.00/copies.

Editors of philatelic magazines and club bulletins are invited to help the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES by publishing reviews.



MAJOR ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN "FILATELIA", IN 1978

No. 1/1978	
30 years since the issue of the first republican postage stamp	by Sergiu Gabureac
Postal stationeries issued in 1977	Iosif Micu
Postal agencies and bureaus (II)	Silviu Dagomir
A variety of the *"1918"* overprint	Marcel Sapira
First postal cancels used in Moldavia and Walachia	P. Voiculet-Lemeny
No. 2/1978	
Postal canels used during the 1877-78 War of Independence	Dumitru Passalega
The maximum card in a thematic collection	Paul Angelescu
First day and special cancels	A. Mitrica, M. Stoian
No. 3/1978	
Telegraph-posts in the 1877-78 campaign	Kiriac Dragomir
On the *"comb"* and *"K"* perforations	Barbu Ionescu
Commercial publicity through slogan cancels	Iosif Micu
On ship cancels	Silviu Dragomir
No. 4/1978	
Statistics on the stamps sold from 1874 to 1904	Dumitru Passalega
Postal stationery errors and varieties	Iosif Micu
No. 5/1978	
The U.N. stamps	George Arghir
Essays or proofs?	Lucian Belcea
No. 6/1978	
Perforations of the 1920-25 issues	Barbu Popescu
No. 7/1978	
On the sheet margins of the 1920-25 issues	Barbu Popescu
Incomplete perforations on some of the Northern Transylvania issue	Marcel Sapira
Early telegram forms	Dumitru Passalega
No. 8/1978	
On Romanian perfins	Vasile Eros
No. 9/1979	
The Roman posts in Dacia	Emanuel Munteanu
Cancels with Gothic letters used in Jassy	Silviu Dragomir
On the 1894-98 *"Wheat Ear"* issues	C. Marian Jianu
No. 10/1978	
On the *"PR"* watermark	Grigore Racoviceanu
Errors and mistakes of postmarks	Marin Iordache
First Romanian aero-philatelic cancels	Silviu Dragomir
No. 11/1978	
First Romanian postal markings used in Dobrogea	Dumitru Passalega
Bavarian essays of a Romanian issue	Alexandru Butea
No. 12/1978	
Romanian ship cancels and shipping agency cancels marking of the postal masters	Mihai Bauer Grigore Racoviceanu

A large collection of FILATELIA (or single copies) is available through the editor.

AN EVIDENTLY FORGED CANCEL

by Don Heller, 206 West Fairmount Ave., State College, PA 16801.

In the July 1973 issue of Filatelia (vol. 22, no. 7, p. 11) Kiriac Dragomir described and illustrated a postmark BUCURESCI, double circle with star and ornament at bottom, denoted as C.9a. The mark is on the 1865 Prince Cuza 20 parale, and has the date 13/8 (1/13 August) in center. The remarkable fact is that I have the identical postmark on the 1866 Prince Carol 2 parale (date 13/8) and on the 1868 Prince Carol 4 bani (date 13/8), and the 4 bani is a forgery marketed by Fournier! Therefore I believe the postmark to also be a forgery, and challenge anyone to find it on a genuine stamp or cover with a date other than 13/8.

The C.9 postmark is inscribed BUCURESTI and has a 26 mm outer circle. Racoviceanu (1963) dates it from 1869. My copies of C.9a BUCURESCI have a 24 mm outer circle and larger date numerals than C.9. The ornaments at bottom are essentially identical. It is reasonable to ask whether Fournier made the C.9a cancel; I cannot answer this question, but note that no similar cancel appears in the Fournier Albums assembled from his remainder stock of forgeries. (See *"The Fournier forgeries of the Romanian cancellations"* by George Pataki, Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 1/1977).

REVIEW:

1979 CATALOGUE "CRES" TIMBRE-POSTS

by Peter M. Leibowits

Vol. I-France, Vol. II-French colonies, occupations and overseas territories. Illustrated completely in color. Published in French.

For the Romanian specialist, the catalogue contains a number of items of interest in both Vol. I and II.

First, it notes the existence (on page 50 of Vol. I) of a rate for balloon post (Balloon Monte) covers addressed to Romania, namely 40 centimes. A price of 4750 francs (over $1,000) is given for such a cover.

Second, the catalogue (Vol. I) lists and prices both for single stamps and on cover the small numeral lozenged-type cancellations used in Romania on six differenct denominations of the 1853-60: Empire Franc: Napoleon issues.

Vol. II lists the French overprints on Hungarian stamps issued for the French occupation of Arad in 1919 and notes the existence of 55 major varieties and some minor varieties such as inverted overprints, missing inscriptions, color varieties, etc.

COMMENTS on published articles can be sent directly to the authors.

INQUIRIES regarding the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB or the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES can be sent to the editor.

Reprinted from STAMP SHOW NEWS, January 1979.

Cancels Of The Romanian Navy

by Mihai Bauer
Bucharest, Romania.

Presented here are the administrative cancels which are required to be applied on all the correspondence between the personnel of Romanian military vessels and their friends and relatives, sometimes with the authorities. They are not postal cancels, but because they are found on postal matter they have to be identified and studied.

The earliest such cancel in my collection is from 1916; it is large and round, with the large type coat of arms of the Romanian kingdom in the middle. On the top, on two arched lines is written: ARMATA DE OPERATII (Operational Army) and MARINA MILITARA (Military Marine). Under the coat of arms (not detailed in the drawing), on three arched lines it reads: VASUL SPITAL (Hospital Ship), "PRINCIPELE CAROL" (Prince Carol), LIBERA EXPEDIERE (Free for Dispatch), Fig. 1.

During WW I, a relatively large number of navy cancels were in use but they were applied on a small amount of correspondence because the ship crews were small, compared for example with a military ground unit.

Another cancel, used in 1942, also round, on the top between two sixpointed small stars, is the word ROMÂNIA; the coat of arms with the royal crown in the middle, and on the bottom, on two arched lines: DIVIZIA DE DUNARE (Danube Division), MONITORUL ALEX. LAHOVARY (Alex. Lahovary Monitor), Fig. 2

The third cancel presented here was used in 1943. It is round with two close circles, on the top an arched inscription: ROMANIA on the first row, MARINA REGALA (Royal Navy) on the second row, the coat of arms with the royal crown in the middle, DIVIZIA DE DUNARE (Danube Division) and CORPUL ECHIPAJELOR FLUVIALE (Fluvial Crews' Crop) on the bottom, Fig. 3

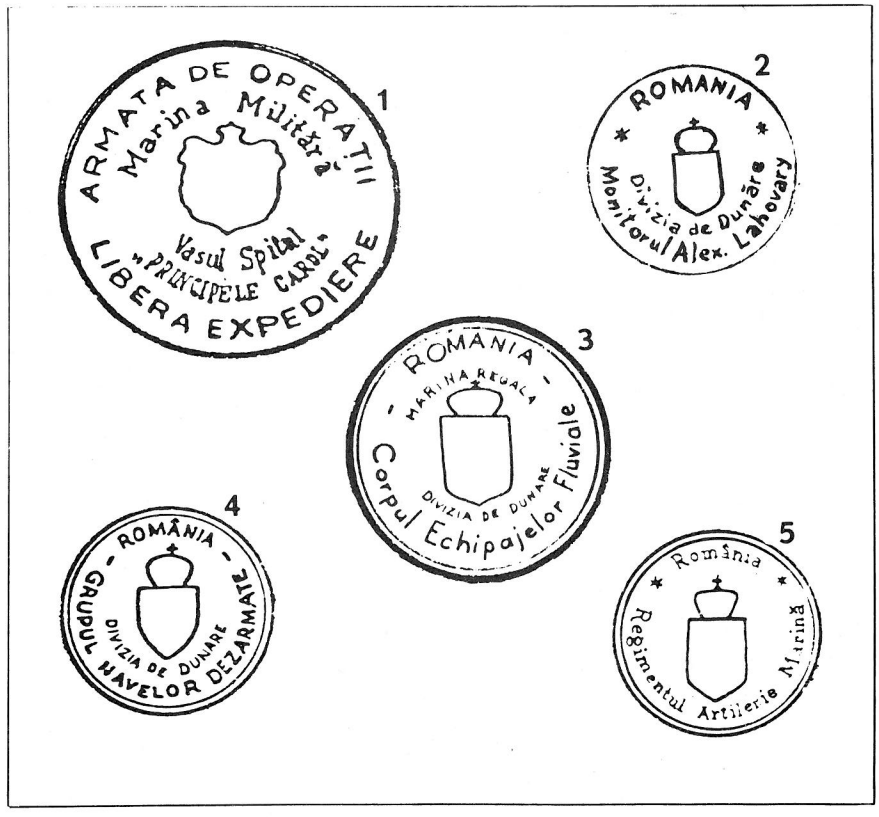
The fourth cancel was also used in 1956; it is also round with two close circles, on the top between two sixpointed stars is the word ROMANIA, the coat of arms with the royal crown is in the middle, and REGIMENTUL ARTILERIE MARINA (Marine Artillery Regiment) in on the bottom, Fig. 5.

On all these drawings the coat of arms and the royal crown are not detailed because of the difficulty of sketching them.

These cancels are scarce, on one hand because of the limited correspondence of the ship personnel, and on the other hand because during the war, much of the mail was destroyed, lost, confiscated, etc.

During the wars and sometimes between them, these cancels were applied to conform with strict military rules, often as censorship markings.

We are convinced that other similar cancels will be reported, filling the empty spaces in the chapter of the Romanian navy cancels, a part of the Romanian postal history insufficiently researched and studied.



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